



Mosquito Control around the Home & Business,

In September of this year (2020) the Bureau of Meteorology announced the weather phenomenon La Nina had developed in the Pacific Ocean, which will result in a noticeable change in our local weather pattern until at least the end of the year.

This change in weather pattern will result in slightly cooler periods, along with increased rainfall events throughout the generally hotter and drier summer months.

As a result of this change in weather pattern mosquito activity is expected (and has already been observed) to increase greatly compared to past years as the increased sporadic rainfall during hotter periods results in much more breeding opportunities.

What is Council doing?

- Increased its treatment frequency and expanded its scope for Council controlled high risk breeding sites.
- Increased its monitoring in areas reported to have a high level of activity to help identify species and additional breeding locations.
- Undertaking spot treatments at newly identified sporadic breeding locations as they occur.

What can I do?

- Eliminate potential breeding hotspots around your home or business.
- Increase personal protective clothing for yourself, your family or employees.
- Utilise deterrents such as candles, coils and repellents.

When and where are mosquitos likely to breed?

Sporadic mosquito breeding can be a common problem in residential areas during warm weather with periods of intermittent rainfall.

In warm weather conditions mosquito eggs can progress to adults in as little as 2 - 4 days once exposed to water as shallow as 1 - 2cm, with eggs able to lay dormant in dry conditions for extended periods of time prior.

Mosquito eggs require still stagnant water to complete their breeding cycle, with common potential mosquito breeding locations in and around the home and workplace including (but not limited to): blocked gutters, unmaintained water features, ponds, pools, spas, rainwater tanks, pet water bowls, empty plant pots and saucers, car tyres, car bodies, disused storage drums and even general pooling of water on uneven surfaces.

Once mosquitoes have developed to matured adults they can have a lifespan of up to two months depending on species and sex and can be extremely difficult to manage at this stage. That being the case the best mosquito treatment method is eliminating potential breeding locations and preventing the development of adult mosquitoes.

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How can I prevent breeding?

Throughout periods of intermittent rainfall items that capture even very small amounts water may need to be intermittently maintained or emptied to ensure they don't turn into temporary breeding sites.

Some common actions that can help include:

- Covering rainwater tank entry points, septic tank openings, wells or other large water containers with mosquito proof mesh.
- Maintaining roof gutters to remove leaves and debris so that pools of water do not form.
- Empty and refill bird baths, stock troughs and pets' drinking water containers at least once a week.
- Ensuring swimming pools are maintained and disinfected – **empty and unused** swimming pools **must** still be maintained to a degree that prevents breeding.
- Storing items that collect water (i.e. car tyres) undercover or ensuring they are either emptied regularly or allowed to easily drain of water.

How can I protect myself and my home/business?

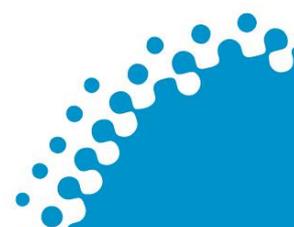
- Eliminate breeding around your property.
- Wear long loose fitting clothing when outside during periods of high activity.
- Repel using insect repellent containing DEET (diethyl toluamide) or picaridin – always read and follow the label instructions when applying.
- Protect your space with deterrents such as citronella candles and mosquito coils.
- Prevent entry by ensuring mosquito proof mesh is installed on all doors and windows you may leave open and is properly maintained and undamaged.
- If all else fails, eradicate with a standard insecticide type fly spray. Use sparingly, particularly inside, and always follow the label directions.

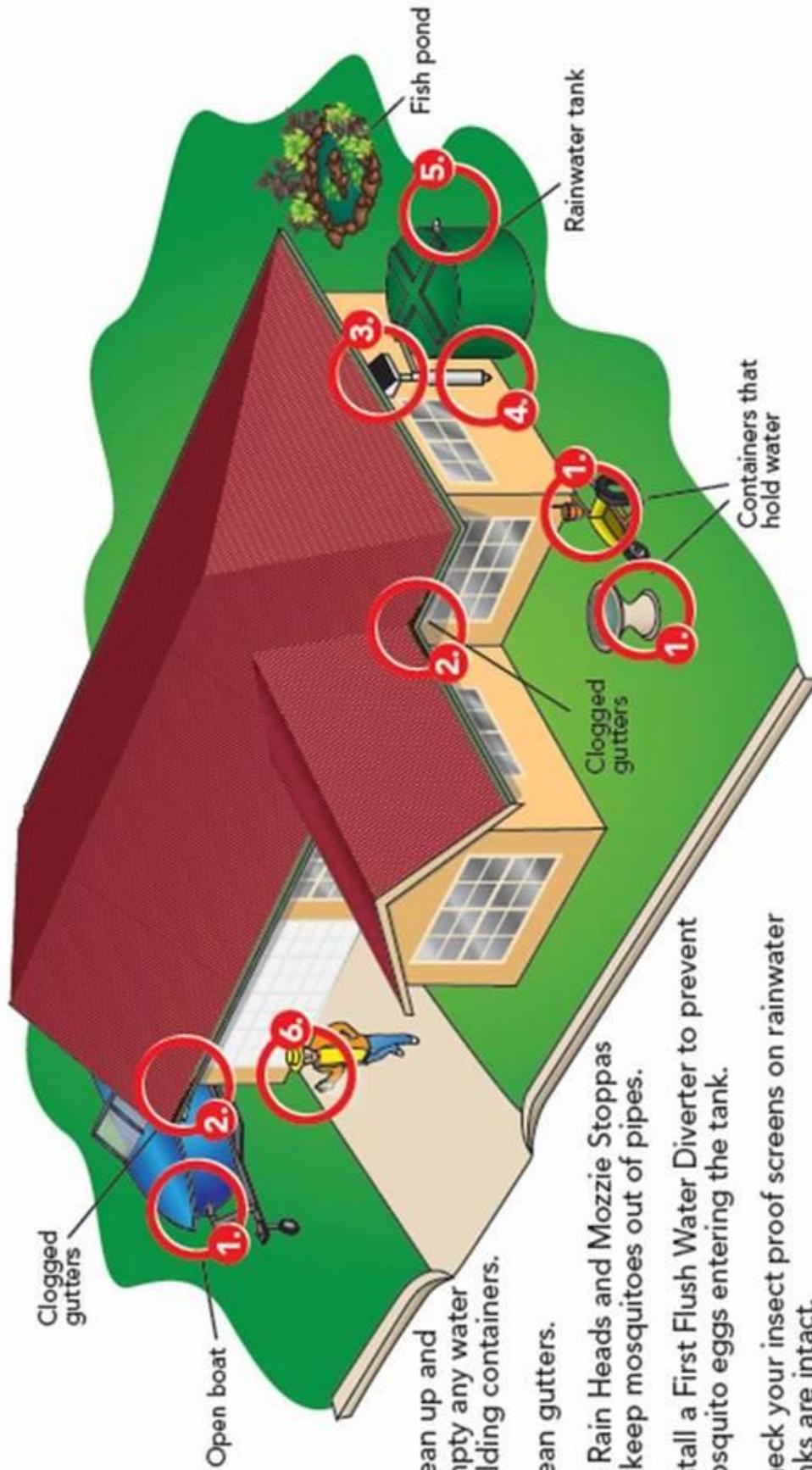
Please take a moment of your spare time to read the information provided and utilise it to identify and eliminate any potential breeding sites around your home or business to assist us in reducing the overall impact mosquitoes can have on our community.

Unfortunately mosquitoes are part of our current urban environment and complete elimination, particularly during periods when the prevailing weather conditions are optimal for breeding, will not be achieved.

The best strategy to deal with mosquitoes is a combination of eliminating breeding locations, both large and small, and personal protection during periods of high activity.

If you believe you know of a breeding location that is outside of your control please feel free to report to Council on 8405 6600 and one of our Environmental Health Officers will investigate it.





- 1** Clean up and empty any water holding containers.
- 2** Clean gutters.
- 3** Fit Rain Heads and Mozzie Stoppas to keep mosquitoes out of pipes.
- 4** Install a First Flush Water Diverter to prevent mosquito eggs entering the tank.
- 5** Check your insect proof screens on rainwater tanks are intact.
- 6** Use mosquito repellents.

