



STOP the BITE

Mosquitoes have a way of ruining any outdoor activity. Keep them at bay with these tips, whether you're gardening, hiking, boating or just trying to enjoy your backyard.



REQUEST MOSQUITO CONTROL

Georgetown County uses a combination of methods to determine which areas to spray for mosquitoes each week during the season. These include checking mosquito traps, visual surveys and resident reports. Georgetown County has an automated phone line set up to accept reports of mosquito issues and requests for service. To request service, call:

(843) 545-3615

1. Use screens. Ordinary window screens with 14 to 18 meshes per inch will keep out mosquitoes. Keep screens in good repair.
2. Wear a wide-brimmed hat, long-sleeved shirt and long pants tucked into socks. Clothing of tightly woven fabrics offer protection against bites. Wear light colors.
3. Avoid wearing perfumes and other scented products. This will make you less attractive to mosquitoes.
4. Use insect repellants containing 30% DEET. Don't apply repellants to the eyes or lips, or on skin that is cut, abraded or has a rash. Don't forget to spray the ankles, nape of the neck and areas where hair is thin or parted.

GEORGETOWN COUNTY

MOSQUITO CONTROL

A Division of the Public
Services Department



WHEN WILL YOU SPRAY MY NEIGHBORHOOD?

Georgetown County Mosquito Control operates seasonally, usually from May through October, when mosquitoes are active. Weather allowing, staff sprays for mosquitoes utilizing trucks equipped with misters five days per week. Weekly schedules and maps of areas to be sprayed are posted every Monday at gtcounty.org/mosquitoes.

When mosquito populations are extremely high, the county may find it necessary to utilize aerial spraying to cover a larger area of the county. These sprays will also be advertised in advance on our website.

gtcounty.org/mosquitoes

MORE THAN AN ANNOYANCE

Mosquitoes aren't just irritating. They can carry life-threatening diseases and transmit them to humans, pets and livestock. The most common mosquito-borne diseases in the U.S. are viral encephalides (such as Eastern Equine Encephalitis, St. Louis Encephalitis, LaCross Encephalitis) and heartworms in animals. Worldwide mosquito-borne illnesses include West Nile Virus, malaria, dengue fever, yellow fever, Zika virus and Chikungunya virus. Infections happen only if the mosquito bites an infected person, gets the disease itself and then bites another person, giving him or her the disease. One of the primary goals of Georgetown County Mosquito Control is to protect public health from diseases transmitted by mosquitoes. Learn more at cdc.gov.



WHAT ABOUT THE BEES?

Georgetown County takes seriously its efforts to save beneficial insects, specifically the bee colonies in our county. If you are a beekeeper, please register with Mosquito Control to be added to the "Call Before An Aerial Spray" list, so you will have plenty of time to protect your hives. You will also receive a free beekeeper sign for your yard to alert the spray truck driver to turn off the sprayer near your property. To sign up, call (843) 545-3615 or email mosquitoctrl@gtcounty.org.

How to combat mosquitoes at home

One of the best ways to keep the mosquito population down in your yard is to prevent them from breeding and developing to adulthood. All mosquitoes need water to grow into biting, breeding adults. While adult flying mosquitoes frequently rest in grass, shrubbery or vegetation, they do not develop there. By eliminating standing water in and around your yard, you can prevent mosquitoes from developing. Make sure to empty any containers or other items that may hold water. Watch out for clogged gutters, wheelbarrows, old tires, etc. Change water in outdoor pet bowls daily and in bird baths at least twice weekly. If you choose to apply pesticides around your home yourself, make sure they are labeled for mosquitoes. Read all labels and follow included instructions carefully. Concentrate your efforts in cool, damp, shady areas. The effects of these sprays are usually short-lived. Do-it-yourself spraying is not a substitute for a community-based mosquito control program.

Mosquito Life Cycle

