



MOSQUITOES FACT SHEET

Mosquitoes cause annoyance, discomfort and a potential health risk to people, but they are also a vital part of our natural environment. Mosquitoes pollinate plants and provide a food source to many native species.

Unfortunately they cannot be eradicated completely, but there are precautions that we can take to reduce their numbers and protect ourselves from being bitten.

Around your home:

Mosquitoes breed in standing water.

- Empty trapped water after rain.
- Empty pot-plant bases weekly or fill with sand.
- Flush bromeliads and similar plants weekly or use water crystals.
- Clean roof gutters and trim near-by trees.
- Maintain swimming pools, birdbaths, fishponds, etc.
- Screen all rainwater tanks and ensure they are maintained.
- Stock dams with native fish and keep edges clear of vegetation.
- Use EnviroSafe Mosquito Drops in standing water.

Protect yourself from bites:

Mosquitoes are most active at dawn and dusk. If you are outside at these times take precautions.

- Wear loose fitting long pants and long sleeve shirt.
- Use insect repellent with synthetic chemicals (DEET, picaridin and PMD) or a natural product (e.g. Eucalyptus, Citronella, Melaleuca).
- Screen all windows and doors.
- Use mosquito nets for unscreened homes or when camping.
- When mosquitoes are present, spray the rooms, behind furniture and dark places and leave for 30min before ventilating.
- Air conditioning, fans and mosquito coils also deter mosquitoes.

Council's role in prevention

Council monitors for mosquito vectors, predominately during summer months and undertakes treatments when there is a potential disease risk to the public. Due to the extent of open spaces in the Western Downs Regional Council area, it is impractical to implement control measures in all instances such as nuisance mosquitoes.

