

# Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District

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**Contact:**

Mary-Joy Coburn, Public Information Officer  
Phone: (714) 971-2421  
Fax: (714) 971-3940  
E-mail: [mjcoburn@ocvector.org](mailto:mjcoburn@ocvector.org)

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## Spring Showers Bring Flowers and an Increase in Mosquito Sources

**Garden Grove, CA.** Recent rains combined with warm weather create the perfect environment for mosquito breeding. The Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District (OCMVCD) urges residents to take an active role in mosquito control by regularly inspecting their property for any stagnant water that will contribute to an increase in mosquitoes.

Mosquitoes can complete their life cycle from egg to adult in about a week and only need a bottle cap full of water to develop. Common sources for mosquito breeding include plant saucers, buckets, tires, pet water bowls, trash cans, water holding plants such as bromeliads, and landscaping with low lying areas. Any collected water should be emptied or drained, containers should be tightly sealed to prevent mosquito entry, unnecessary containers should be removed from yards, and green unmaintained pools should be cleaned or treated.

“To ensure protection of family, friends and pets, it’s important that residents take the proper steps to eliminate stagnant water on their properties,” said Mary-Joy Coburn, public information officer for OCMVCD. “Reducing these mosquito breeding sources now can help reduce the mosquito population when temperatures warm up later in the season.”

### **Residents should take the following precautions to help reduce the chances of being bit by mosquitoes:**

- Dump and drain any containers filled with water at least once a week
- Clean and scrub bird baths and pet water bowls weekly
- Dump water from potted plant saucers
- Drill a hole or puncture containers to eliminate standing water

### **To prevent mosquito bites, the District offers the following tips:**

- Apply mosquito repellents to exposed skin before going outdoors; reapply as recommended
- Wear repellent containing DEET®, Picaridin, IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus
- Close all unscreened doors and windows to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home or space; repair broken or damaged screens

- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants, and opt for lighter-colored clothing

Residents are encouraged to sign-up for District email notifications. For more information, visit [www.ocvector.org](http://www.ocvector.org).

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