

Knock Knock!  
Who's there?  
Amos.  
Amos Who?  
Amos-quito



# Mosquito Prevention and Protection

## Always remember the 3 D's of protection from mosquitoes



### Drain

Many mosquito problems in your neighborhood are likely to come from water-filled containers that you, the resident, can help to eliminate. All mosquitoes require water in which to breed. Be sure to drain any standing water around your house.

- Dispose of any tires. Tires can breed thousands of mosquitoes.
- Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers.
- Clear roof gutters of debris.
- Clean pet water dishes regularly.
- Check and empty children's toys.
- Repair leaky outdoor faucets.
- Change the water in bird baths at least once a week.
- Canoes and other boats should be turned over.
- Avoid water collecting on pool covers.
- Empty water collected in tarps around the yard or on woodpiles.
- Plug tree holes.
- Even the smallest of containers that can collect water can breed hundreds to thousands of mosquitoes. They don't need much water to lay their eggs. (bottles, barrels, buckets, overturned garbage cans, etc.)



### Dress

Wear light colored, loose fitting clothing. Studies have shown that some of the 174 mosquito species in the United States are more attracted to dark clothing and most can readily bite through tight-fitting clothing of loose weave. When practical, wear long sleeves and pants.



### Defend

Choose a mosquito repellent that has been registered by the Environmental Protection Agency. Registered products have been reviewed, approved, and pose minimal risk for human safety when used according to label directions. Four repellents that are approved and recommended are:

- DEET (N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide)
- Picaridin (KBR 3023)
- Oil of lemon eucalyptus (p-methane 3,8-diol, or PMD)
- IR3535



So now you know ... Mosquito Season is upon us and every year The Town of Leonardtown contracts with the Mosquito Control Section of the Maryland Department of Agriculture to spray for mosquito control. The primary goal of this program is to prevent the occurrence of mosquito-borne disease in humans, pets and livestock. Mosquito control is an economic necessity in some parts of Maryland dependent on outdoor tourism during the summer. The program relies on surveys and monitoring of the larval and adult mosquito populations to coordinate control activities. Control techniques include breeding source reduction, public education, biological control and insecticide applications from aircraft or ground equipment. The Mosquito Control Section are very concerned about the effects of their activities on non-target organisms, like honeybees and bats. They only conduct truck mounted spraying or misting at night. Bees are not active at night. The droplets in the spray have an extremely small diameter. The surface to mass ratio of these droplets is such that these droplets do not leave residue on surfaces. They are like tiny parachutes. When they are pulled down by gravity, drag keeps them from falling. The point is that these droplets do not land or stick on surfaces. When bees become active the next day and crawl across surfaces, those surfaces do not have any pesticide from the spray. The droplet size averages 15 micrometers. There are 1000 micrometers in a millimeter. They must have their machines tested, by law, twice a year.

**The spray schedule usually runs from May until September throughout Leonardtown and the trucks spray mostly on Tuesday evenings beginning around 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. If necessary due to larger collection volume of mosquito larvae early/late spraying may be necessary.**

Surveillance and Control of Immature Mosquitoes MARCH- OCTOBER Surveillance and Control of Adult Mosquitoes JUNE -SEPTEMBER

For more detailed information on mosquito control visit: [http://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/mosquito\\_control.aspx](http://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/mosquito_control.aspx)  
[http://mda.maryland.gov/Documents/ag\\_brief/AgBrief\\_Mosquito-Control.pdf](http://mda.maryland.gov/Documents/ag_brief/AgBrief_Mosquito-Control.pdf)

### When will the Town be spraying for mosquitoes?

Surveillance and Control of Immature Mosquitoes is done March to October.  
Surveillance and Control of Adult Mosquitoes is done June to September.

For the 2024 Season, routine spraying is done weekly on Tuesdays from 6:00 pm to 9:00 p.m. Spraying will be done only if a Maryland Department of Agriculture Inspector determines it is necessary. Please monitor for any Unscheduled Mosquito Control public notices on Twitter@MDAdept.

Criteria for Spraying: Nuisance Mosquito Control

Landing Count: 3 mosquitoes landing in 2 minutes.

Light Trap Collection: Capture of at least 12 female mosquitoes of a species known to feed on humans, per night in an unbaited trap.

The Mosquito Control Program does not spray for Midges that cover homes and boats along many St. Mary's rivers in April and May. These non-biting insects that develop in mud bottoms of slow moving creeks and rivers show a decline in populations a few weeks after emergence.

For updates and more information visit [www.mda.state.md.us](http://www.mda.state.md.us). Search for "Mosquito Control" and view the schedule for "Communities Participating in Mosquito Control Services"

### Here are some rules to follow when using repellents:

- Read the directions on the label carefully before applying.
- Apply repellent sparingly, only to exposed skin (not on clothing).
- Keep repellents away from eyes, nostrils and lips: do not inhale or ingest repellents or get them into the eyes.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) suggests that DEET-based repellents can be used on children as young as two months of age. Generally, the AAP recommends concentrations of 10% or less, unless disease risk is imminent, then concentration can be increased to 30% or less.
- Avoid applying repellents to portions of children's hands that are likely to have contact with eyes or mouth.
- Repellents can be used by pregnant or nursing women. The EPA does not recommend any additional precautions for repellent use by pregnant or nursing women.
- Never use repellents on wounds or irritated skin.
- Use repellent sparingly and reapply as needed. Saturation does not increase efficacy.
- Wash repellent-treated skin after coming indoors.
- If a suspected reaction to insect repellents occurs, wash treated skin, and call a physician. Take the repellent container to the physician.



**AMCA**  
THE AMERICAN MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION

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