

Don't let mosquitoes breed in your rain barrels!

Mosquitoes need standing water to complete their life cycle. Follow these tips and prevent mosquitoes from using your barrel as their new home.

1. Securely cover the barrel

- Use a fine mesh wire screen to keep mosquitoes from entering and laying their eggs.
- You can purchase the screens with the barrels or separately at hardware/gardening stores.



Check your screens often for tears or holes – mosquitoes can fit through very tiny places.

2. Empty barrels regularly

- Use up all your water and empty out your barrel once a week to keep water from becoming stagnant.
- Even with overflow valves and spigots, some water can be left at the bottom of the barrel. Make sure to empty the barrel completely – mosquitoes don't need much water to breed.



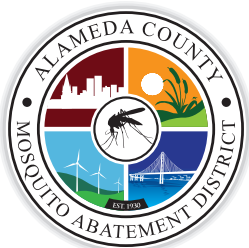
Mosquito larvae need very little water to grow. A rain barrel can be a perfect environment for breeding mosquitoes.

3. Use bacterial larvicides

- Purchase and use products containing *Bacillus thuringiensis israelis* (Bti). Bti is a bacteria that kills mosquito larvae. Products are available in various forms: small bits, donut-shaped discs, and small water-soluble packets.
- Bacterial larvicides specifically target mosquito larvae and do not cause harm to pets, fish, or humans when used in accordance with the label. The water is safe to use for watering plants.



Bacterial larvicides are easy to use – just read the instructions and drop in the barrel.



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www.mosquitoes.org

**San Mateo County
Mosquito & Vector
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