

# Rain Barrels

## Don't let mosquitoes breed in your barrel!

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

### 1 Cover the Barrel

- Use a fine mesh wire screen to keep mosquitoes from 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 because mosquitoes don't need much water to breed.

### 3 Use Bacterial Larvicides

- Purchase "Mosquito Dunks" and use them to kill off those pesky mosquito larvae.
- These larvicides specially target mosquito larvae and do not cause harm to pets, fish or humans (when used in accordance with the label).

*Mosquito Dunks are easy to use - just drop them in the barrel.*



**San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District**  
1351 Rollins Rd.  
Burlingame, CA 94010  
(650) 344 - 8592  
[www.smcmad.org](http://www.smcmad.org)