

## Mosquito Control Information

### *General Information*

*Enjoy summer without mosquitoes*

### **Mosquito activity**

Mosquitoes are most active during summer. Mosquitoes are not only an irritating, biting insect, they also spread disease. By identifying and eliminating potential breeding sites, together with simple self-protection measures, the risk of being bitten is greatly reduced.

#### Breeding sites

Mosquitoes breed in calm, still water mainly during the summer months. Stopping or reducing access to water can help to reduce many mosquito-related problems.

Unused or stagnant swimming pools provide an ideal breeding site for mosquitoes. Pools should be fully drained, regularly chlorinated or salted to kill any larvae (wrigglers). If the pool is unused for prolonged periods, consider filling the pool with fresh water (or dechlorinating the water) and stocking it with native fish to provide longer-term mosquito control.

Rainwater tanks are also ideal breeding sites for mosquitoes. If mosquitoes are found in a rainwater tank, the entry point should be located and closed. For most types of tanks, adding a teaspoon (5ml) of domestic kerosene will stop mosquitoes from breeding. Kerosene should not be used in Aquaplate tanks or in some plastic tanks. Kerosene may initially be tasted in the water but is harmless and the taste will subside over time.

### **Eliminate breeding sites**

- Cover, remove or dispose of all items situated outside that can hold water;
- Empty pot plant drip trays once a week, or fill them with sand;
- Screen rainwater tanks and ensure that gutters do not hold water;
- Fit fly-screens to all windows and openings of the house;
- Trim trees to prevent leaf litter and debris blocking gutters;
- Drill holes in tyre-swings and garden surround to allow water to drain;
- Empty bird baths and pets' drinking water at least once a week;
- Overturn or remove the drain plug from boats, canoes and dinghies to stop water from pooling;
- Stock ponds and dams with fish (goldfish and native fish are recommended)

### **Protect yourself**

- Wear loose fitting, light coloured clothing to cover as much of the body as possible;
- Apply insect repellants containing DEET (Diethyl toluamide) to all exposed skin (use in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions);
- Place fly-screens on your house, houseboat, caravan and tent or use mosquito nets;
- Use insect sprays, insect surface sprays, mosquito coils and citronella candles to repel or kill mosquitoes;
- Schedule outdoor activities early in the day when mosquitoes are less active.