



“Dump, Dunk, Screen: Three Simple Ways to Remove Mosquito-breeding Sites from Your Yard”

UP Community Mosquito Control
upcmosquitoc@gmail.com

The Asian tiger is the most abundant and annoying mosquito species in University Park. These daytime biters lay their eggs next to standing water. The eggs hatch into larvae, which swim and feed for about a week before becoming adults. These mosquitoes cannot breed without standing water, and they are weak fliers. Fifteen feet is a long flight for them. Asian tiger mosquitoes in your yard likely hatched there or nearby.

A simple, effective way to reduce mosquitoes is to rid your yard of mosquito breeding sites. Inspect your yard periodically for standing water, especially after it rains. Anything in your yard that holds water for a week, even as little as a teaspoon, can be a mosquito breeding ground:

- Corrugated drainpipe
- Clogged gutters
- Flowerpots and saucers
- Bins, lids, or containers
- Inflatable pools and kids toys
- Birdbaths and ornamental ponds
- Yard equipment, like wheelbarrows and buckets
- Folds in tarps or pool covers

Here are three simple ways to remove breeding sites from your yard:

- **Dump or drain:** If it holds water for longer than a few days, dump it or drain it.
- **Dunk:** If you can't dump it or drain it (birdbaths, fishponds, persistent puddles) put Mosquito Dunks or Mosquito Bits in the water. They kill the larvae before the larvae become adults, and do no harm to other species.
- **Screen:** Corrugated drainpipe is mosquito heaven! Remove it, or replace it with straight-sided pipe if possible. If that is not possible, **screen it.** Tie stretchable nylon (panty hose) or mesh in or around the ends of the pipes.



Removing breeding sites is highly effective against Asian tiger mosquitoes, especially when combined with GAT mosquito traps. If you remove standing water from your yard, they cannot fly very far to find other water sources, so they are more likely to be attracted to the traps.

Dump, dunk, and screen. Then enlist the help of your neighbors to remove breeding sites from their yards as well. Mosquito control works best when done as a community.