

# Your Yard

## Put The Bite On Mosquitoes And Take Back Your Yard

(NAPSA)—As the weather gets warmer, people look forward to spending time outdoors in their backyards. The annoying presence of mosquitoes can put a damper on outdoor activities in the spring and summer. But there are things you can do to reduce mosquito populations and enjoy your backyard again.

A recent pest control industry survey revealed that Americans are more concerned about health risks associated with mosquitoes than with termites, ants or cockroaches. However, only 36 percent indicated they were doing anything about it.

Mosquitoes are now a public health threat as well as annoying, and we all need to pay attention to the risks. To take action in the fight against the public health risks of mosquitoes, learn what your community is doing to control mosquitoes. Ask your neighbors what they are doing. Then take an active role in protecting yourself, your family, your neighbors and your community by proactively looking for ways to reduce mosquito populations around your home.

The National Pest Management Association has the following tips to help control mosquitoes:

- Eliminate breeding sites by cleaning out gutters and other areas where standing water may be present, such as birdbaths, ponds and nonfiltered swimming pools.
- Screen windows, doors and other openings with mesh.
- Remove unneeded vegetation



**Birdbaths are pretty, but may allow mosquitoes to breed, creating a public health threat.**

and trash from around any standing water sources that cannot be changed, dumped or removed.

- Use insect repellent containing DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide) on exposed skin and clothes.

- Introduce mosquito-eating fish such as gambusia, green sunfish and minnows to standing water.

- Contact a pest control professional to inspect in and around your home or business to locate potential breeding sites and advise you on control methods. Many pest control professionals now offer mosquito control services.

Taking these steps and enlisting the help of a pest control professional will help reduce mosquito populations and provide months of warm weather fun.

To learn more, or to find a pest control professional near you, visit [www.pestworld.org](http://www.pestworld.org).