



Anti-mosquito measures

Purpose

The information provided below is to help the public in preventing and controlling the breeding of mosquitoes - *Aedes albopictus*, in home and the surrounding areas.

The Mosquito Problem

2. Mosquitoes cause great nuisance to man. Some species even pose threats to public health as vectors of diseases like dengue fever – a severe mosquito-borne disease characterised by high fever, headache, rash, joint and muscular pain. *Aedes albopictus*, a vector of dengue fever and dengue haemorrhagic fever, is prevalent in Hong Kong. It breeds both in rural and urban areas and its breeding places can be grouped into two broad categories: artificial receptacles like containers, discarded tyres, lunch boxes and cans; and natural habitats such as tree holes, bamboo stumps and leaf axils.

Anti-mosquito Programme

3. To contain the mosquito problem and to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes in the home and the surrounding areas like rooftops, balconies, light wells, parking areas and gardens, each family member should actively take part in mosquito control. It is therefore necessary for families to draw up their own anti-mosquito programmes for the place they live.

Objectives

4. The anti-mosquito programme aims to achieve the following objectives:-
 - i) To encourage each family member to participate in preventing and containing the mosquito problem so as to avoid mosquito breeding in the home and the surrounding area;
 - ii) To eliminate breeding places for mosquitoes especially receptacles of all types; and
 - iii) To arouse the awareness of each family member towards the importance of mosquito control and to remind them to remain vigilant against dengue fever.

Working Schedule


5. As it takes an average of 7 days for eggs of mosquitoes to develop into adult mosquitoes, potential breeding places in the home should be inspected once a week.



Mosquito Prevention and Control Measures


6. Some of the commonly found potential breeding places for mosquitoes and the ways of elimination are given in the tables below:

i. Inside the flat





Breeding place	Cause of problem	Control action	Remark
Flower vases	Water kept in vases provide breeding place for mosquitoes.	Water in vases should be changed at least weekly. Clean the interior of the vases.	
Saucers for ornamental potted plants	Excessive watering causes accumulation of water in saucers.	Drain away water immediately after watering.	Avoid using saucers for potted plants.
Tray underneath air conditioner	Water may be accumulated in trays.	Drain away water properly.	They are usually overlooked during mosquito surveys.

ii. Rooftop and balcony



Breeding place	Cause of problem	Control action	Remark
Flower vases	Water kept in vases provide breeding place for mosquitoes.	Water in vases should be changed at least weekly. Clean the interior of the vases.	
Saucers for ornamental potted plants	Excessive watering causes accumulation of water in saucers.	Drain away water immediately after watering.	Avoid using saucers for potted plants.
Water storage containers	Containers placed outdoors collect rain water readily.	Cover with lid.	Water storage should be replaced by water pipe with tap.
Tray underneath air conditioner	Water may be accumulated in trays.	Drain away water properly.	They are usually overlooked during mosquito surveys.
Roof gutters and surface drainage channels	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Structurally defective roof gutters and surface drainage channels hold water readily. Choked with refuse or leaves. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> They should be repaired. Clear leaves and debris regularly, at least weekly. 	They are usually overlooked during mosquito surveys.

iii. Others (garden, light well and parking area)

Breeding place	Cause of problem	Control action	Remark
Flower vases	Water kept in vases provide breeding place for mosquitoes.	Water in vases should be changed at least weekly. Clean the interior of the vases.	
Saucers for ornamental potted plants	Excessive watering causes accumulation of water in saucers.	Drain away water immediately after watering.	Avoid using saucers for potted plants.
Rubbish, especially discarded bottles and cans	Collect water readily	Keep in disposable plastic bags, which should then be tied up at the openings and kept in containers with cover.	
Water storage containers	Containers placed outdoors collect rain water readily.	Cover with lid.	Water storage should be replaced by water pipe with tap.
Tree holes and bamboo stumps	Natural water receptacles.	Drain away the water or fill with sand, mud or concrete as appropriate.	
Disused tyres as anti-bumping device	Rain water and water from car washing trapped by tyres.	Puncture with big holes.	Preferably, anti-bumping device should be replaced by marking on the floor.
Surface drainage channels	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Structurally defective surface drainage channels hold water readily. Choked with refuse or leaves. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> They should be repaired. Clear leaves and debris regularly, at least weekly. 	
Pond	Stagnant water attracts mosquito breeding	Keep larvivorous fish in the pond	

7. Adult mosquitoes found at home can be killed by using household aerosol pesticides.
8. In general larviciding must only be carried out if the breeding sources or potential breeding grounds could not be eliminated within one week.

Action checklist

9. To facilitate the prevention of the mosquito, a checklist on the breeding place for mosquitoes and action taken could be prepared for the programme by making reference to those mentioned in paragraph 6 above.
10. Pest control company could be appointed for providing services on mosquito control and prevention. Advice on mosquito prevention could be obtained from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department.