

Mosquito Prevention and Control Measures in Winter

Dengue fever can be transmitted by *Aedes albopictus*, a mosquito commonly found in Hong Kong. *Aedes albopictus* can transmit the virus to their eggs if they are infected with dengue virus. Their eggs can withstand long period of desiccation, and will hatch when the temperature becomes suitable and water is present. In other words, *Aedes albopictus* infected with dengue virus can pass the virus from generation to generation through their eggs even in adverse situation. Therefore, some specific preventive and control measures in winter are particularly important to eliminate mosquito eggs so as to prevent their proliferation.

Life cycle of mosquitoes

Water

Eggs

2-3 days

Larvae

5-7 days

Pupae

1-3 days

Adult mosquitoes

Aedes albopictus usually lay their eggs in small containers such as vases, saucers, trays and damp surfaces in any depressions. Here are some tips for eliminating *Aedes* eggs:

- Watch out small containers such as vases, saucers and trays under air-conditioning units as well as drainage systems for *Aedes* eggs.
- Edges and sides of water containers, vases and saucers should be scrubbed and cleaned with household detergent at least once a week to remove possible deposited *Aedes* eggs.
- Keep all drains free from choke. Drains and surface drainage channels should be scrubbed and limewashed with alkaline detergent compound at least once a week to remove possible deposited *Aedes* eggs.
- Top up all depressions to prevent hatching out of eggs in rainy seasons.

Apart from eliminating mosquito eggs, removal of stagnant water is also important to prevent mosquito breeding. The following preventive and control measures should be carried out at all times:

- Water which inherently and regularly accumulated in household containers should be changed or discarded completely at least once a week.

- Water storage containers should be covered tightly to prevent mosquitoes from breeding.
- Disused containers should be disposed of in refuse collection bins with well-fitted covers.
- Change water in vases completely and remove water in saucers underneath potted plants every week. The use of saucers should be avoided whenever possible.
- Use marks on parking spaces instead of disused tyres as anti-bumping device.
- Discarded tyres should be properly disposed of and covered to prevent accumulation of water.
- Contact the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department at 2868 0000 or private pest control companies for assistance in mosquito prevention and control.

ENQUIRIES

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Hotline: 2868 0000

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