



## Fight the Bite! West Nile Protection

The Ada County Mosquito Abatement District (MAD) has a comprehensive mosquito abatement action plan to protect residents against the potentially deadly West Nile virus. MAD begins the abatement plan by first monitoring and controlling mosquito larvae populations at 2,400 water sites spanning more than 68,000 acres in Ada County.

But not all mosquitoes are controlled as larvae, so department crews collect mosquitoes from predetermined trapping locations throughout the county. These trapped mosquitoes are counted, identified and tested for the presence of the West Nile virus. If a positive test is found, crews identify the positive test pool on the Mosquito Tracker Online Mapping Web site, and determines the best course of action to abate adult flying mosquitoes in the area of a positive test pool.

This comprehensive mosquito abatement action plan also involves an important aspect – you! We need your help in reducing mosquito populations. This brochure describes how you can safeguard your home against mosquitoes and ensure you aren't unknowingly helping to breed mosquitoes – especially those mosquito species known to carry the West Nile virus.

Ada County  
Weed, Pest & Mosquito Abatement

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## Fight The Bite! West Nile Virus Information



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# Fight The Bite!



## Steps you can take to reduce mosquito populations in Ada County

Mosquitoes need standing water to complete their life cycle. A female mosquito needs only about two tablespoons of standing water in which to lay her eggs. It is extremely important to make sure your property is clear from all standing water by following these safety precautions:

- Drain ALL standing water from containers around your property. This includes: spare tires, flower pots, wheel barrows, children's toys (and especially children's swimming pools) and anywhere water can collect.
- Avoid overwatering your landscape or lawn, and make sure to fix any leaking irrigation spigots.



- Clean your birdbath, animal water troughs, ornamental ponds or waterfalls regularly. You can use inexpensive "mosquito dunks" (pictured left) to kill larvae that could be growing in standing water. Mosquito dunks can be found in most home and garden stores. The highly specific biological pesticide will effectively kill mosquito larvae in pools of standing water for up to 30 days.

- Report any abandoned swimming pools or spas in your neighborhood. Water can collect there and become an incubator for mosquito eggs/larvae.



The two mosquito species known to carry West Nile are *Culex pipiens* and *Culex tarsalis* (pictured here) to learn more about identifying mosquitoes, visit us online: [www.adaweb.net/weedpestandmosquito.aspx](http://www.adaweb.net/weedpestandmosquito.aspx)



## Protect yourself against West Nile virus

When recreating during summer months when mosquitoes are active, use the following precautions to protect you and your family against mosquito bites:

- Use an EPA-registered insect repellent that contains the active ingredients DEET or Picaridin. If you want to use an organic product, choose a repellent with Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus.
- Spray yourself and your clothing with repellent since mosquitoes can bite through thin fabrics.
- Wear light-colored long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outside.
- Avoid being outside between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- Replace or repair any broken window or door screens to prevent mosquitoes – especially the *Culex* species (which is known to carry West Nile) from getting into your home.

