

## Mosquito Facts



1

Only female mosquitoes bite humans. Male mosquitoes can actually pollinate flowers.

2

Mosquitoes do not prefer a certain blood type

3

There are no studies proving bats can control the mosquito population, but there are studies saying dragonflies might be able to help.

4

Mosquitoes can bite through tight fitting clothes.

## FAQs

- **Why do mosquito bites make me itch?**  
When a mosquito bites you it injects saliva into your skin. In response, your immune system releases a chemical called histamine to deal with the allergen. This histamine causes the itching and swelling you feel from mosquito bites.
- **Can mosquitoes transmit HIV?**  
No
- **Do mosquitoes bite pets?**  
Yes
- **When are mosquitoes most active?**  
Dusk, when the sun is setting

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# Fight the Bite



# Mosquitoes and Disease

Mosquitoes in New York can carry diseases like West Nile and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE).

**West Nile** may cause a mild illness but may also cause encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) or meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord). People over 50 years of age are at the highest risk for severe illness.

**EEE** is an extremely rare, but serious and often deadly infection that causes encephalitis or inflammation of the brain. People over the age of 50 and younger than the age of 15 are at greatest risk for developing severe disease.

Learn more at:



[https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/west\\_nile\\_virus/fact\\_sheet.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/west_nile_virus/fact_sheet.htm)



[https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/eastern\\_equine\\_encephalitis/fact\\_sheet.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/eastern_equine_encephalitis/fact_sheet.htm)

# Mosquito Control at Home

There are steps you can take to have fewer mosquitoes in your yard:

- Making sure there is no standing water available for mosquitoes to multiply (birdbaths, dog dishes, flower pots, tires etc.)



- If non-drinkable water can not be drained it can be treated with larvicides (like mosquito dunks) to kill the mosquito larva.
- Keep grass short, and shade to a minimum to reduce mosquito habitat.
- Make sure all windows and doors have hole free screens



## Preventing Mosquito Bites

- Wear loose long sleeves and pants when you might encounter mosquitoes.
- Apply sunscreen first and then insect repellent.
- Use repellents with DEET, Picaridin, or IR3535.
- Treat clothing with permethrin, not directly on the skin.

