Mosquito Bucket Challenge

Reduce mosquitoes where you spend time — without fogging.

The Whole-Yard Method

STEP 1

Support healthy habitat

Plant native and skip sprays to create a healthy yard that supports dragonflies, birds, and bats that eat mosquitoes.

STEP 2

Make a Mosquito Bucket

Target larvae in a controlled spot before they become biting adults.

STEP 3

Dump standing water

Empty containers, gutters, saucers, anywhere stagnant water collects.

STEP 4

Treat water you can't dump

Use mosquito dunks in birdbaths, rain barrels, and ponds.

STEP 5

Protect yourself as needed

Use screens, fans, repellents, and protective clothing to help reduce bites.

STEP 6

Get your neighbors involved

Mosquito management works best when the whole community participates.

Why It Works

The bucket draws in mosquitoes already nearby (not from far away), then stops the next generation before it hatches. It works because of Bti, a natural bacterium that targets mosquito larvae but doesn't harm biodiversity like bees, birds, or butterflies.

Why Not Fog?

Fogging hurts more than it helps. It kills wildlife, is harmful to your pets and kids, and doesn't even stop mosquitoes at the source — it misses the larvae, where real control happens.

How to Build Your Bucket

Fill & bait

Fill a 2–5 gallon bucket ⅔ with water. Add a handful of leaves or grass clippings to attract egg-laying females.

Add a mosquito dunk

Use ¼ of a dunk. Bti is a naturally occurring bacterium that targets mosquito larvae — safe for bees, dragonflies, birds, and kids.

Add a cover or rescue stick

Use wire mesh or a lid with holes to keep kids and pets out. Or place a stick inside so small animals can climb out.

Place & label

Set in a shady spot away from where you spend time. Add a sticker or sign so neighbors know what it is.

Refresh monthly

Replace the dunk every 30 days. Skip it and the bucket becomes a breeding site, not a control site.

Learn More & Build Yours

Full how-to guide, FAQs, printable stickers, and advocacy tools.
MosquitoBucketChallenge.com

#MosquitoBucketChallenge

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Cofounded by Doug Tallamy, author of *Nature's Best Hope*