PEST TREATMENT — GUIDE

Mosquito yard treatment: start with water

Use CDC and EPA resources to compare source reduction, larval treatment and treatment of adult mosquitoes.

Updated November 10, 2026

Start by looking for water that can hold mosquito larvae. CDC advises emptying and scrubbing, covering, turning over or discarding water-holding items each week. Check buckets, saucers, toys, tires and rain containers. Spraying adult mosquitoes does not replace this work.

Compare the targets

Larvicides target mosquitoes before they become flying adults. CDC describes their use for water that cannot be emptied or covered and will not be used for drinking. Use only a product suitable for that site and follow its label. Do not put a pesticide into water merely because mosquitoes are nearby.

Adulticides target adult mosquitoes. CDC notes that adults rest in dark, humid places. Ask the provider to name the target areas and explain why they need treatment. Request the label, preparation instructions and limits on access to the yard.

Ask before accepting a recurring plan

- What breeding sites did the inspection find?
- What can I fix without pesticide treatment?
- Is the proposal for larvae, adults or both?
- Which areas will be treated and which will be avoided?
- How will weather affect the appointment?
- What must I do with pet bowls, toys and outdoor food?
- How will results be reviewed before another application?

Ask about flowering plants, water features and nearby sensitive areas. EPA's mosquito-control hub links information on larvicides and adulticides. Read the product-specific directions rather than relying on a general claim such as natural or family safe.

Sourced US price range

HomeGuide lists USD $80 to $150 per visit for a quarter- to half-acre yard and USD $350 to $1,000 per season. Checked 2026-11-10. These ranges describe different billing periods. Do not multiply a visit price by an assumed number of visits to make a seasonal quote.

Ask how many visits the actual plan includes, what triggers an extra charge and whether a return visit is included. The range does not price drainage work or prove that your yard needs treatment. Canadian readers need a local CAD quote.

Keep control practical

Use or repair window and door screens, as CDC advises. Keep a record of water sites you removed and places where mosquitoes remain. If the problem extends beyond your property, contact the local mosquito-control or public-health service. A private yard plan cannot control every source nearby.

No service should use the absence of visible mosquitoes during a visit as proof of protection from disease. This guide compares household control options; it does not assess local disease risk.

Sources

- Mosquito Control at Home | Mosquitoes | CDC. Fetched and checked 2026-11-10.
- Mosquito Control | US EPA. Fetched and checked 2026-11-10.
- How Much Does Mosquito Control Cost? (2026). HomeGuide, commercial US cost guide. Fetched and checked 2026-11-10.

Frequently asked questions

Does spraying replace emptying containers?

No. CDC recommends removing standing water as part of home mosquito control.