

## Tips for Los Angeles County Residents

# Maintaining A Swimming Pool to Prevent Mosquito Breeding and Disease

An unmaintained swimming pool can be the source of thousands of mosquitoes each week, increasing the risk of diseases carried by mosquitoes. To prevent mosquito breeding, it is very important to keep your swimming pool properly maintained at all times. To keep your swimming pool in a clean and safe condition, make sure the filtration and recirculation system is in good working condition and maintain the correct chlorine and pH levels.

### Pool Maintenance that Prevents Mosquito Breeding

- Keep water clean, clear, and recirculating. Regularly chlorinate and test your swimming pool to maintain disinfection levels.
- Maintain the pH level between 7.2 and 7.8
- Run filter on a regular basis as required (4-8 hours/day).
- Keep filters clean and pump in good repair.
- Skim the pool surface, and vacuum and brush the walls weekly.
- If not in use, the pool may be tightly covered. Keep rain water from accumulating on the cover.



### Pool Conditions That May Cause Mosquito Breeding

- Green and unmaintained swimming pools
- Stagnant water on top of pool covers
- Pool not completely covered



### Life Cycle of Mosquitos

The mosquito has 4 growth stages; egg, larva, pupa, and adult. The first three stages occur in water and they are commonly mistaken for tadpoles. Mosquitoes need water to grow. It only takes about 1 week for a mosquito to grow from an egg to a flying adult.

### Diseases Transmitted by Mosquitos

- West Nile Virus
- St Louis Encephalitis
- Western Equine Encephalomyelitis

### Other Dangers of an Unmaintained Swimming Pool

- Drowning deaths; Cloudy water lessens visibility and adds to the number of drowning deaths.
- Other water borne diseases including upper respiratory diseases.
- Damage to the swimming pool.

**Note: Draining a pool may cause damage to the pool structure.**

For more information, visit our website at [www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh), or call the Recreational Waters Program at (626) 430-5360, or email [ehmail@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:ehmail@ph.lacounty.gov).