As a West Orange resident, you can help reduce mosquitoes around the home by taking basic steps to reduce areas where mosquitoes breed. Any container holding water is a potential mosquito-breeding source and is likely to cause problems around the house.

Of particular concern are clogged gutters and scattered tires. Both tend to collect leaves, then fill with water and provide very attractive sites for mosquitoes to breed. Since these containers are water tight, they dry out very slowly and are generally the cause of mosquito problems around the home. Gutters should be kept clean and other containers removed or overturned to limit mosquito-breeding sites.

Other basic steps homeowners can take to reduce mosquito populations around the home include:

- Remove all standing water from containers around the home. This includes children’s pools, flower pots, tarps, garbage cans, and anything else that may hold water.
- Clean out bird baths once a week
- Eliminate standing water or low areas in your yard
- Clean the gutters on your house
- Use an aerator or fish in any ornamental ponds
- Cover recycling containers that are left outside
- Remove any discarded tires from your property and recycle them
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, even if they are not being used. A swimming pool left unattended can cause a mosquito problem throughout the whole neighborhood.

For more information on mosquito control or for spraying contact the Essex County Mosquito Commission at 973-239-3366 ext. 2480 or [www.essexcountynj.org](http://www.essexcountynj.org)