

# Introducing: The Mosquito Doorknob Hanger

## Tips on speaking with neighbors on backyard and community mosquito control

A truck pulls up to your neighbor's house and out comes two people with backpack sprayers and face masks. They begin to drench your neighbor's yard with an unknown chemical as you hunker down in your house. You're very concerned, but still trying to muster the confidence needed to speak with your neighbor. Beyond Pesticides' new mosquito doorknob hanger may help.

With the mosquito doorknob hanger, you can simply hang it on your neighbor's door to encourage best practices. While communication is encouraged, the doorknob hanger is a great, effective way to begin a discussion about alternative methods for controlling mosquito populations in your community. The simple, basic information that the mosquito doorknob hanger provides can go a long way toward eliminating mosquitoes at the source, and controlling those that persist with least-toxic means. The hanger also refers back to Beyond Pesticides' least-toxic mosquito management website, where hazard information and more detailed steps on individual and community mosquito management techniques can be found.

### Ideas on how to use the hanger *Start Small.*

Most urban and suburban mosquitoes are weak fliers and will not travel far from where they breed. In order to see effective results, start small with your immediate, adjacent neighbors. Expand outwards, using your house as a central location. As the hanger says, "The more neighbors participating, the fewer mosquitoes there will be!"

### *Offer to help!*

Maybe your neighbors are elderly or disabled and can't get out and eliminate breeding and habitat as often as needed. Offer your assistance by coming by at least once a week to dump out standing water on their property, or take turns with other neighbors participating in least-toxic mosquito control.

### *Take it to the halls of power.*

Does your town spend money to spray toxic chemicals from trucks throughout neighborhoods in your community? After your neighbors start seeing the benefits of the simple mosquito reduction steps, get your group together and attend your community's next local council or mosquito control board meeting. Raise your collective voice against toxic pesticides that can harm people, pets, and wildlife in favor of least-toxic methods that focus on prevention and community education.

### *What about the nay-sayers?*

More likely than not, you will encounter those who view pesticide use as a personal right. Many also fear the impacts of Zika, West Nile virus, and other mosquito borne diseases. Things could get heated. Don't let them. Stay calm and positive, and remain balanced and logical about the

**Are You a Mosquito Breeder?**

**Let's Fight the Bite this Mosquito Season without Toxic Chemicals**

**Please Share!**

**3 Simple Steps to Reduce Mosquitoes:**

- 1. ELIMINATE BREEDING GROUNDS**  
Seek out and drain all standing water on your property at least once a week to interrupt breeding cycles.  
*Be thorough!* Check out-of-reach and obscure areas such as gutters, tires, tarps and drains. Fill holes or depressions in trees with sand or mortar, or drain after each rain. Also, don't give mosquitoes a place to hide, and be sure to trim back overgrown vegetation!
- 2. USE BIOLOGICAL CONTROLS**  
For standing water that you are unable to drain, including bird baths, ponds, and rain barrels, use biological controls to target larvae.  
*Examples:* Purchase *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti) mosquito dunks™ and mosquito-eating fish (such as minnows or bluegills). Encourage natural mosquito predators, including bats, birds, and frogs.
- 3. SPREAD THE WORD!**  
Share this doorknob hanger – the more neighbors participating, the less mosquitoes there will be!

**Mosquito Pesticides Are Not "As Safe as Chrysanthemum Flowers."**

**SCIENTIFIC STUDIES SHOW THESE CHEMICALS:**

- ☐ Increase risk of cancer and neurotoxic effects in humans.
- ☐ Contaminate indoor air, carpets, furniture and surfaces.
- ☐ Poison pets, pollinators and other beneficial wildlife.
- ☐ Can be replaced by least-toxic products and practices.

**SAFE BACKYARD MOSQUITO PROTECTION**

- Wear long-sleeved, loose, light colored clothing.
- Use least-toxic insect repellents containing oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- Sit near a large fan when outdoors in your backyard.
- Use screened porches or tents to enjoy the summer weather.

For additional information on Safer Community Mosquito Control, call Beyond Pesticides, 888-NO-POISON (667-6476), or visit [www.beyondpesticides.org/mosquito](http://www.beyondpesticides.org/mosquito)

**BEYOND PESTICIDES**

prospects for mosquito reduction without toxic chemicals. Emphasize to unsure neighbors that mosquito chemicals do more harm than good, especially for children and pets, and in the end are not worth the cost, given simple, inexpensive steps outlined on the doorknob hanger. Let them know that former renown professor Dr. David Pimentel (Cornell University) conducted a study on mosquito pesticide spraying which found that 99.999% of insecticides do not reach target mosquitoes, and instead spread into our environment, where they cause harm to public health, pets, and wildlife. Let your neighbors know that these simple steps become more and more effective as the community gets more involved.

Always encourage them to visit Beyond Pesticides information rich website on mosquito control at [www.beyondpesticides.org/mosquito](http://www.beyondpesticides.org/mosquito), where we go into more detail on the safe and effective strategies individuals and the community at large can take to prevent mosquitoes and the diseases they may carry.

*Request a free pack of 25 doorknob hangers to distribute in your community today! Send an email to [info@beyondpesticides.org](mailto:info@beyondpesticides.org) with "Mosquito Doorknob Hangers" in the subject line, and include your name and mailing address, or call 202-543-5450.*