

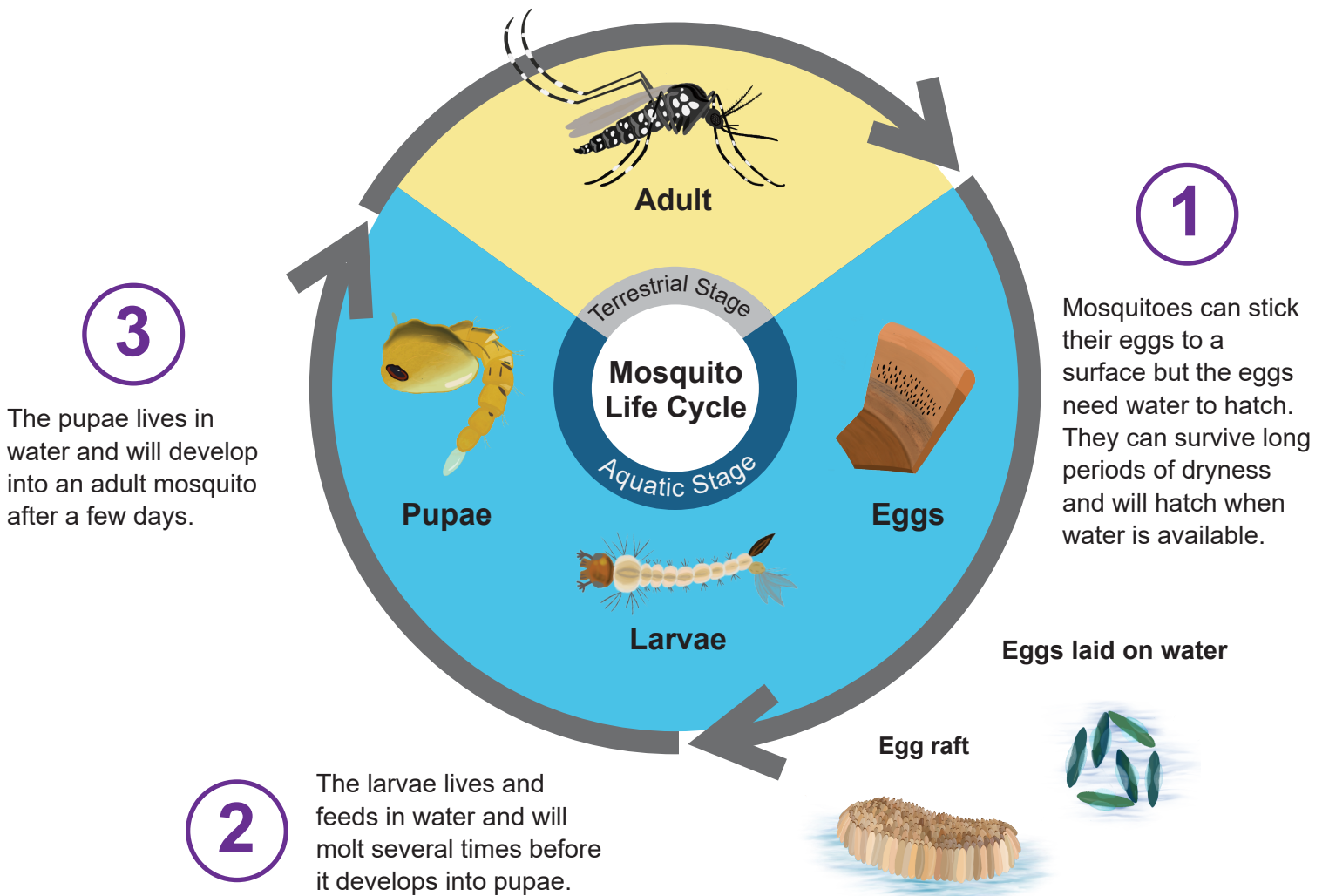
# Mosquito IPM at Home



Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is any approach that uses the least toxic, effective method to solve pest problems. Managing mosquitoes at homes is important because they can transmit diseases like West Nile Virus, and their bites lead to irritation, annoyance, and allergic reactions. By using IPM practices, it's possible to effectively, safely, and more sustainably manage mosquitoes while protecting people and the environment.

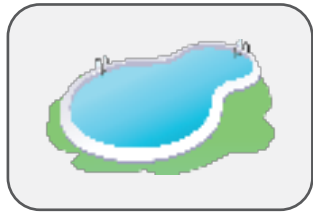
## Mosquito Biology

The life cycle of a mosquito has four stages: egg, larvae, pupae, and adult. Mosquitoes can lay eggs individually or in a group called a raft. The eggs can be laid directly on water, soil, or on a surface that may later fill with water like a potted plant saucer. Typically the life cycle, from egg to adult, can take up to 14 days to complete, but in high temperatures it can be completed in as little as 4 days.



# Mosquito Prevention through Water Management

Mosquitoes depend on standing water to complete their life cycle. Below are examples of where standing water is commonly found around homes. Focus on eliminating these and other potential breeding sites to break the mosquito life cycle while also conserving water use.



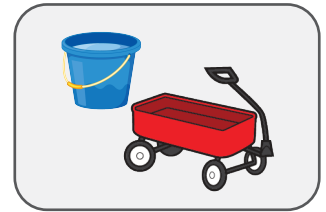
Keep unused pools covered and remove standing water from cover. Use the pool filter and skimmer regularly and keep up with maintenance.



Rinse, and refill pet water bowls daily.



Avoid placing plants rooted in water or flower vases containing water in homes.



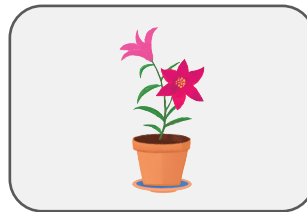
Check that water is not pooling on toys or playground equipment. Dump water from buckets.



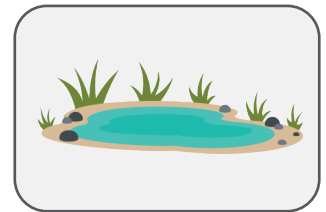
Clean and change water in birdbaths weekly or more frequently during hotter months.



Prevent trash cans from filling with water. Consider drilling drainage holes, if necessary.



Empty water that fills in potted plant saucers.



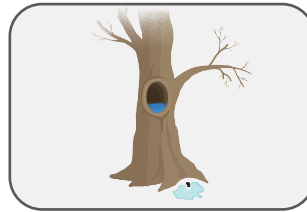
Keep water moving in ponds by adding a fountain or other device. Consider adding aquatic animals which will feed on mosquito larvae.



Pickup and dispose of trash and clutter. Mosquitoes can breed in a cap full of water or less.



Clean gutters regularly and ensure that they are functioning.



Fill tree holes if they hold water. Fix irrigation leaks.



Clean yard drains and make sure they are in proper working order. Place window screens on drains, if needed.



For more information on how to manage mosquitoes at your home, visit your local vector control district's website and contact them for assistance.

