

SWIMMING POOLS AND SPAS: ARE YOU BREEDING MOSQUITOES?

Public Health Act 2005



Neglected or poorly maintained swimming pools and spa pools are an ideal environment for mosquitoes to breed. When the pool's chemical parameters are not maintained at the minimum required levels and/or the filtration system is not functioning correctly, the pool becomes a public health risk.

Mosquitoes require standing water to breed, so pool water becomes an attractive water source for the female mosquito to lay her eggs. Once these eggs hatch, the larvae can develop into biting adult mosquitoes within 4-7 days.



It is your responsibility as a resident, tenant or property owner to maintain the pool so that it does not become a breeding site for mosquitoes. Mosquitoes can carry several different mosquito borne diseases, in particular, Ross River Virus and dengue fever.

HOW TO PREVENT MOSQUITOES BREEDING IN YOUR POOL

The most important things that you can do to prevent mosquitoes breeding in your pool are to:

- » regularly treat the water with chemicals
- » thoroughly clean the pool and surrounds
- » operate the filtration system as per the manufacturer's recommendations.

This will also minimise algal growth and any build-up of bacteria.

Guidance and information can be obtained from any competent pool maintenance technician. You can also refer to the [Queensland Health Swimming and Spa Pool Water Quality and Operational Guidelines](#) (October 2004). Although this guideline is intended for publicly used pools, it also provides useful information for private (domestic) users.

LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

One of the definitions of public health risk in the *Public Health Act 2005* is anything that is, or is likely to become, a breeding ground or source of food for designated pests such as mosquitoes.

Pool or spa owners must take steps to make sure that their pool or spa is not a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Property owners may be fined if their pool or spa is found to be breeding mosquitoes, or if they fail to comply with directions to remove the public health risk.

Pools are also exempt from water restrictions, which means that whenever the pool requires topping up to allow filtration to occur correctly, all residents and property owners are allowed to do so.

MORE INFORMATION

If you require any further information, please visit Council's website townsville.qld.gov.au, or call Council's Customer Service Centre on 13 48 10.