

**THE  
WEST NILE VIRUS  
IS NO  
MATCH FOR  
COMMON SENSE.**



**ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**



- Wear insect repellent applied according to manufacturer's instruction. Supervise use by children.
- Wear light-colored long pants and long-sleeved shirts to cover exposed skin.
- Repair holes in door and window screens.
- Clean roof gutters and downspout screens regularly.
- Get rid of old tires, buckets, drums, bottles and any other water-holding containers from the yard.
- Fill in or drain any low places (puddles, ruts) in the yard.
- Keep drains, ditches and culverts clean of weeds and trash so water will drain properly.
- Cover trash cans to keep out rainwater.
- Empty plastic wading pools, birdbaths, plant pots or drip trays every four to five days.
- Add sand to outdoor plant pot drip trays to absorb excess water.
- Tree rot holes and hollow stumps can hold water; make sure they are filled with sand or "rock wool".
- Keep your grass cut short and shrubbery well trimmed around the house so adult mosquitoes will not hide there.
- For places like small stagnant ponds, rain barrels and low-lying wet areas, use environmentally friendly larvicides, which kill mosquito larvae without danger to people, pets or wildlife; follow all label directions.

For more information, please contact the Illinois Department of Public Health at 217-782-5830 ([www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/wnv.htm](http://www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/wnv.htm)) or your local health department.