

CONTROLLING MOSQUITOES IN SWIMMING POOLS AND SPAS



Are you breeding mosquitoes?

Neglected or poorly maintained swimming or spa pools provide a perfect environment for mosquito breeding. This is because mosquitoes require water to breed, resulting in water from unmaintained swimming pools becoming an attractive place for the females to lay their eggs. Once the eggs hatch, 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, Dengue fever, Barmah Forest virus and dog heartworm.

How to prevent mosquitoes breeding in your pool

To stop mosquitoes breeding in your pool you should:

1. Clean your pool regularly. The algae build up on the sides of the pool and any decaying organic matter (leaves, twigs etc) floating in the pool will provide a food source for the larvae.

2. Treat it regularly with chorine/salt.

There are three main ways you can keep your pool chlorinated; they are:

- Apply the chemical by hand.
- By installing a salt chlorinator, which produces chlorine.
- By installing a liquid chemical feeder, which automatically adds chlorine.

Ensure your filtration system is working effectively and operate according to the manufacturers recommendations – mosquitoes prefer to breed in still water. An efficient filtration system will keep the surface of the water moving.

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

Guidance and information can be obtained from any competent pool maintenance technician and you may also refer to the Queensland Health <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/>

Although these guidelines are intended for publicly used pools, they will also provide useful information for private (domestic) users.

Your responsibility

You must maintain your swimming pool to ensure it does not become a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

When a pool filtration system is faulty or not working at all, and / or the application of chemicals such as chlorine have stopped, the pool may breed mosquitoes which is considered a Public Health Risk.

This can happen within days of unattended maintenance. If you need assistance, guidance can be obtained from a competent pool maintenance technician or a pool shop.

The risk

Unmaintained swimming pools in the Isaac Region can become breeding grounds for mosquitoes, which pose a health risk by potentially spreading diseases to residents, including you, your family, your neighbours and your pets.

Legal obligations

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

Mosquitoes are a designated pest and breeding them or providing the opportunity for them to breed in your pool does not comply with the requirements of the Public Health Act.

The *Public Health Regulation 2018* requires that a person must ensure an accumulation of water or liquid at the place is not a breeding ground for mosquitoes. This includes swimming pools.

Other requirements

Your pool must be appropriately fenced. Refer to Pool Safety and Compliance available on Council's website.

For further information

Please contact Council's Community Education and Compliance department on 1300 472 227.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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