Guidance when using Mosquito Dunks® (larvicide)

NEW YORK STATE | Department of Health

WHAT ARE DUNKS®? (see product packaging)

- Dunks® (larvicide) utilize a naturally-occurring type of bacteria to control mosquitoes before they become flying, biting, potentially disease-carrying adults.
- Dunks® do not use chemicals to control mosquitoes.
- They are effective on mosquito and blackfly larvae, and have been recommended for use in backyard ponds or fountains where fish, frogs, tadpoles, and other aquatic animals live.
- Studies have shown minimal irritation when Dunks® are eaten or contact bare skin. Therefore, you should avoid getting material from Dunks® in your eyes, and wash your hands after handling.

WHEN TO USE

- Dunks® are best used in New York State from April – September, when mosquitoes are active. Mosquitoes hatch more frequently in warmer weather.
- Dunks® are effective for approximately 30 days, so reapplication may be needed.*

WHERE AND HOW TO USE

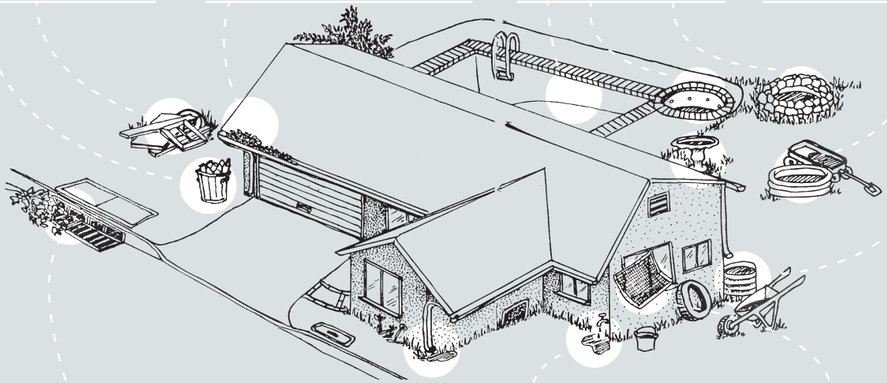
- **Dunks®, as well as other larvicides, should be used ONLY on your OWN property on small areas of water that is in containers and CANNOT be drained.**
- Before using Dunks®, look at your property for areas where there is standing water, or where water collects after rain. These are places where mosquitoes, including mosquitoes such as *Aedes albopictus*, may lay their eggs.
- If at all possible, prevent these areas from collecting water: empty and turn over buckets, unused flower pots, canoes and wheelbarrows. Clean clogged gutters so water flows freely through them. Place lids on outdoor trash cans.
- Once these areas have been addressed, Dunks® can be used on areas where water collects and cannot be removed or drained. These include pool covers, ornamental ponds, fountains and rain barrels.

Uncovered garbage containers and junk piles collect water. Mosquitoes can breed there.

Clogged gutters can collect water and create a place for mosquitoes to breed.

Poorly maintained **ponds and swimming** pools can be breeding sites.

Toys, tires and gardening tools, when filled with water, can provide breeding sites.



Clean up leaf litter, but don't rake leaves and yard waste into storm drains. Doing so might prevent water from flowing and may create pools where mosquitoes could lay eggs.

Leaky faucets provide water in which mosquitoes can breed.

Crawl spaces, attic vents and broken screens allow mosquitoes to enter your home.

- One Dunk® can treat 100 square feet of surface water (10' x 10' area). This is equal to about 8 bathtubs, or the size of a car parking space.
- Dunks® can and should be broken up if the area that needs treatment is less than 100 square feet. Please read and follow label directions.
- Dunks® float, and that is normal. The floating action slowly dissolves the dunk, releasing the bacteria.
- Dunks® begin killing mosquito larva within hours; you should start to notice a difference in about 48 hours.
- Dunks® last for 30 days. Reapplication may be needed throughout the mosquito season.*

OTHER ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

Mosquitoes can breed in small pockets of water—as small as a bottle cap! To minimize mosquito breeding:

- Remove, flip or empty standing water in all containers
- Change water frequently in items like birdbaths.
- Fill in tree rot holes or stumps that can hold water.
- Store boats covered or upside down.
- Pull plastic sheeting or tarps covering yard items tightly so water won't pool.
- Seal & repair cracks in broken or unsealed septic tanks

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

NYSDOH Zika information line: 1-888-364-4723

www.health.ny.gov/diseases/zika_virus/

www.cdc.gov/zika/

* Dunks or similar larivicidal products using the bacteria *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (BTI) are available in most home centers, hardware stores, garden centers, nurseries, and outdoor pond stores.

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