



County of Rockland

ROCKLAND COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The Dr. Robert L. Yeager Health Center
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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

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Mosquito season is rapidly approaching and once again the Rockland County Department of Health (RCDOH) will be providing Mosquito Dunks® and Fathead minnows, free of charge to Rockland County residents.

Mosquito Dunks:

Mosquito Dunks are a form of biological larvicide manufactured in the shape of small donuts that float on the surface of the water and last approximately 30 days (alternate wetting and drying does not reduce their effectiveness). Rockland residents are encouraged to pick up Mosquito Dunks free of charge from the Health Department during one of the giveaway programs that we offer. The RCDOH can LEGALLY give you Mosquito Dunks for use in covered and/or dormant residential swimming pools ONLY. It is against the law for the RCDOH to give residents Dunks for ANY OTHER USE! Mosquito Dunks are not needed in an open pool which is disinfected and filtered.

When using Mosquito Dunks or any other larvicide on your property, homeowners are **required** to place a conspicuous posting notifying that a product is being used for mosquito control. Each packet that you receive from the RCDOH will include an appropriate posting. Mosquito Dunks do not need to be ordered in advance from the Health Department, however you need to know the approximate dimensions of the pool (i.e. 20' x 40' or 24' round) in order to provide you the proper amount of Dunks for effective treatment. Mosquito Dunks as well as other mosquito control products are widely available for purchase from a variety of stores (garden, hardware, pet, etc.) as well as on the internet. Regardless of where your mosquito control product comes from, you **MUST** comply with the posting regulations. A proper posting indicates the applicator's name, contact phone number, amount of product used and date of application as well as a copy of the product label.

Fathead minnows:

Another form of mosquito control that is available to the public through the RCDOH is a species of fish called Fathead minnows. Fathead minnows help to provide control by eating mosquito larvae before they emerge into adult mosquitoes. The minnows should be released in areas that have a minimum of 8" to 12" of water. It is not necessary to stock streams and rivers as mosquitoes generally do not lay eggs in moving water. If fish are already present in the water body of concern, it is not necessary to add Fathead minnows, as the existing fish population should provide appropriate control. Care should be taken not to stock fish in fishless waters that may be used by amphibians (frogs and salamanders) for breeding.

The Fathead minnows will be available for one day only and they must be ordered in advance.

When picking up the fish, they will be in a sealed, oxygenated bag (similar to what you would get when purchasing fish at the pet store). The fish will not survive in the bag for very long, so it is recommended that you go directly to your site and release them. When releasing, make sure the fish are released in an area that they can swim away from (not in a small puddle or a muddy bank). The fish do not require any special care on your part once released.

****Circumstances beyond our control may arise so we suggest that you call (845) 364-3173 on the day prior to the giveaway, between 9:00 am-4:00 pm to ensure that the fish giveaway will take place as scheduled.**