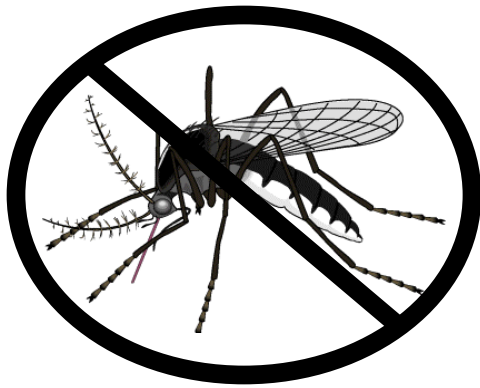


You are required by the Rockland County Sanitary Code to maintain your pool (and/or sauna and hot tub) in a manner that prevents mosquito breeding between **April 1 and October 31.**



#### **Mosquitoes and West Nile Virus**

♦West Nile Virus is mainly spread by the bite of an infected mosquito.

♦The mosquito life-cycle starts when eggs are deposited in standing water.

### **Phone Numbers**

Report a Sick/Dead Bird  
Report Potential Breeding Sites/  
Mosquito Complaints:  
364-3173

County Automated  
Information Line:  
364-8990

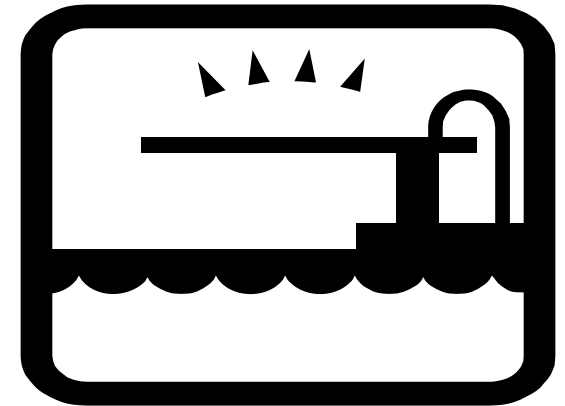
**County Web Site**  
[www.rocklandgov.com](http://www.rocklandgov.com)

**West Nile Virus E-Mail**  
[WNV@co.rockland.ny.us](mailto:WNV@co.rockland.ny.us)



**Rockland County  
Department of Health**

# **Keep your swimming pool mosquito-free!**



**C. Scott Vanderhoef**  
County Executive

**Joan Facelle, MD**  
Commissioner of Health

## YOU MUST CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

### OPERATE YOUR POOL

If you maintain your pool uncovered with active and operational disinfecting and filtration systems, you do not need to treat it with a larvicide (such as Mosquito Dunks®).

### COVER YOUR POOL

♦If your pool cover (either solid or mesh) is 100% dry on the surface, has no holes or tears and is secured and fitted properly, you do not need to treat it with a larvicide.

♦If there is water on your pool cover, either remove the water so that the cover is 100% DRY, or treat the water on the pool cover with a larvicide.

♦If there are holes or tears in your pool cover, treat both the cover and the water in the pool with a larvicide.

### OR ...

If you do not have a cover, and the pool is NOT being disinfected and filtered, you MUST do one of the following:

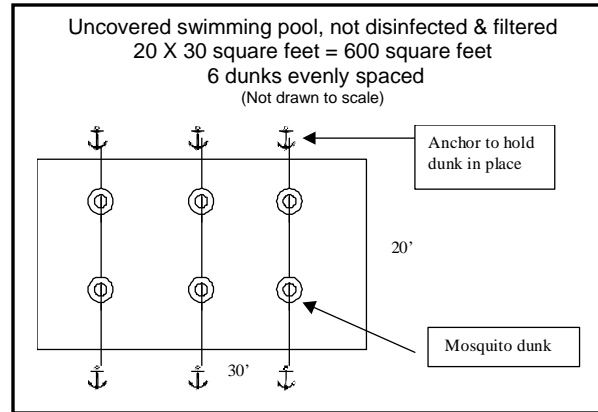
- ♦Treat the pool with a larvicide (see example).
- ♦Empty the pool and keep it **DRY**
- ♦Stock the pool with a Health Department-approved fish species.

*When using a larvicide, a copy of the label with the date of application, applicator's name, phone number and amount used must be posted in an obvious location next to the pool. Always follow all label directions.*

## How to use a larvicide (such as Mosquito Dunks®) in your swimming pool

- ♦One Mosquito Dunk will treat about 100 square feet (10ft x 10ft) of water surface, regardless of depth, for one month. The treatment must be repeated every 30 days to remain effective.
- ♦Dunks should be evenly spaced and float on the water, and can be anchored with string tied through the center hole so that they stay in place.

### Example:



- ♦When you open your pool for the season, any undissolved dunks should be removed and discarded in the garbage. The chlorine level should then be brought to normal operating levels and the pool filters run for at least 24 hours before swimming is allowed. The active ingredient in the dunk is a type of bacteria, which is killed by the chlorine.
- ♦The larvicide contained in the dunks does not harm people, animals or marine life. Direct contact can sometimes produce mild eye and skin irritation. Always follow label directions.

## How to use a larvicide (such as Mosquito Dunks®) on your pool cover

When treating the pool cover, place dunks in the wet areas. It is not as important to anchor them as it is in an open pool of water.

*These are general guidelines. Product label directions must be followed.*

## Mosquito Dunks®

Mosquito Dunks® are the most commonly available larvicide for homeowner use. Larvicides kill mosquitoes in their larval stage in water, before they become biting adults. Mosquito Dunks® can be obtained from local hardware stores, pest control supply stores, pet stores, local garden nurseries or on the Internet. The Rockland County Department of Health may have them available, free of charge. Call (845) 364-3173 for more information.

You can hire a professional pest control company to treat your pool; they must be licensed to treat your pool for mosquitoes and follow the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation law.

## Fish

Many types of fish will eat mosquito larvae. The two types that the Rockland County Health Department approves for use as a control measure are:

- ♦Gambusia (*Gambusia affinis*)
- ♦Fathead Minnows/Rosy Red (*Pimephales promelas*)



These fish can be found at local pet stores and/or bait shops. They should not need much care and they are relatively inexpensive. They are best suited to be used in a pool that is not going to be opened. Pool disinfectant is fatal to the fish. They do need to be checked on periodically to make sure they are effective. If the fish do not survive, you either need to replace them or use a different option. You are not in compliance with the law if you HAD fish in your pool. They must be alive and of sufficient number to effectively control the mosquito population for you to be in compliance with the law.