

4 Tips to Protect Employees from Vector-Borne Diseases



The outdoors cannot be avoided in your line of business, meaning encounters with mosquitoes are inevitable. Mosquitoes are nearly imperceptible, but their tiny bites can be distracting, particularly while workers operate heavy machinery. Sometimes, these itchy bites are accompanied by dangerous pathogens like West Nile, Encephalitis, Chikungunya, and Zika, which can lead to sickness, increased absences, and project delays.

The best way to keep work crews safe from vector-borne diseases while on the job is by establishing best practices that encourage personal safety and mindful mosquito prevention.



Stay safe by remembering the “4Ds”



DEFEND — Encourage workers to use EPA-approved repellents when working outdoors.

- Those containing 10-30% DEET (N,N Diethyl-meta-toluidide) are the safest and most effective.
- To ensure proper use, always follow instructions on the label.



DRESS — Educate your workers on wearing light-colored clothing, closed-toe shoes, long sleeves, and long pants when working outside. They will appreciate this while working long days in the sun.

- Light colors are less attractive to mosquitoes than dark.
- Loose-fitting clothes make it more difficult for them to bite you.
- Bare skin on hands, ankles, or face should be protected with repellent.



DRAIN — The mosquito lifecycle begins in the water - even small amounts can produce hundreds of mosquitoes.

- Empty or cover all containers that can hold water, such as tires, tarps, manholes, toolboxes, wheelbarrows, dumpsters, and machinery.
- Restore drainage in gutters, cover rain barrels, fill in low-lying ground or unnecessary ditches, fix stormwater pipes and other outdoor structures.



DUSK & DAWN — We know workdays at the job site start early and end late, but try to limit outdoor work during these times of day when mosquitoes are most active.

- Most mosquito species are susceptible to dehydration when in direct sunlight.
- During daylight hours, mosquitoes often seek refuge in cool, sheltered places like bushes, tall grassy areas, ivy, and hollow logs.

The IMM Advantage

Companies with operations at large, outdoor job sites can benefit from partnering with a professional mosquito management company to better understand mosquito activity, species dynamics, and disease risks. This proactive approach will help keep mosquitoes at bay, protect workers, and ensure operations are running smoothly.

Through Integrated Mosquito Management (IMM) programs, educational information and resources can also be provided to businesses to help empower their staff members to exercise preventative and protective measures.



Partnering with VDCI

Our Integrated Mosquito Management (IMM) program includes public education, surveillance, disease testing, data collection and reporting, as well as ground and/or aerial applications. VDCI's focus on public health, coupled with our scientific management expertise, set us apart from your typical pest management company. By working together, we can help reduce the concern of these harmful pests so that your employees can have peace of mind while working on site. Contact our experts at 866.403.4111 to develop an IMM program tailored to your jobsite's needs.

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