

# Mosquito Bucket Challenge



**Bucket Building Event** | A Project from Homegrown National Park

**Duration:** 1–2 hours

**Prep Time:** 2–3 hours

**Engage your:** Community

A Mosquito Bucket Building Event is a simple, hands-on activity where participants create mosquito buckets that reduce mosquitoes at the source. Instead of broad spraying, these buckets target larvae in standing water using a biological control (Bti) that does not harm wildlife and helps avoid exposing children and pets to unnecessary chemicals.

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## Event Summary (Quick Guide)

This guide walks you through hosting an event where participants learn how mosquito buckets work and take materials home to set one up.

### How it works:

- Participants learn the method
- You demonstrate setup (no water added during the event)
- Participants take home materials to complete it

### What you'll need:

- Buckets
- Mosquito dunks (Bti)
- Leaves or grass
- Covers (sticks, mesh, etc.)
- Printed instructions
- Optional decorating supplies

### What to emphasize:

- A targeted alternative to fogging sprays
  - Reduces mosquitoes while protecting wildlife
  - Avoids spraying chemicals where children and pets spend time
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## Finding Free Buckets (Recommended)

Many businesses discard food-grade 5-gallon buckets and may be willing to give them away for free. Call ahead to check availability.

### Places to try:

- Donut shops (Dunkin', Tim Hortons)
- Fast food restaurants (Chick-fil-A, Wendy's)
- Grocery store bakeries (Kroger, Safeway)
- Big box stores with bakeries (Walmart, Meijer, Sam's Club)

Ask for empty icing or food ingredient buckets. These are ideal for this project and help keep materials out of landfills.

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## Directions

### 1. Plan the Event

- Choose a date, time, and location
  - Consider a partner or sponsor
  - Set group size and registration
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### 2. Gather Materials

- Buckets (or ask participants to bring their own)
- Mosquito dunks (Bti) (*provide if possible*)
- Leaves or grass clippings
- Covers (sticks, mesh, etc.)
- [Printed flyer](#) with instructions



Optional:

- Decorating supplies (markers, stickers)

Set up one completed bucket as an example.

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### 3. Promote

Share through:

- Email
- Social media
- Flyers
- Community boards

#### Sample description:

Join us for a hands-on workshop to learn a simple, low-cost way to reduce mosquitoes without spraying. Participants will learn how mosquito buckets work and take home materials to set one up.

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### 4. Set Up

Arrange simple stations:

- Buckets
- Materials (dunks, leaves, covers)
- Optional decorating supplies
- Flyers

Display a completed bucket as a reference.

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### 5. Run the Event

- Explain how the bucket works
- Walk through setup steps (participants complete at home):
  - Fill bucket 2/3 with water
  - Add leaves or grass
  - Add mosquito dunk
  - Add cover
  - Place in shaded area

Encourage questions and discussion.

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 **Optional: Add Bucket Decorating**

Decorating can increase engagement and visibility, especially for families and community groups.

Participants can personalize their buckets using markers or stickers, but this is not required.

Simple labels or designs can help make buckets more visible and spark conversations.

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## 6. Wrap Up

Make sure each participant leaves with:

- A bucket
- Mosquito dunk(s)
- Printed instructions

Encourage participants to:

- Set up their bucket at home
  - Maintain it (replace dunk monthly)
  - Share and talk to neighbors
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## Make It Visible: Photos & Sharing

Visibility helps the challenge grow.

Encourage participants to:

- Take photos
- Share using **#MosquitoBucketChallenge**
- Tag **@HomegrownNationalPark**
- Talk to neighbors about how it works

Visible buckets help spark curiosity and participation.

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## Materials

### Core Supplies

- Buckets (5-gallon or similar)
- Leaves or grass clippings
- Mosquito dunks (Bti)
- Covers:

- Sticks
  - Mesh or screen
  - Wildlife “rescue sticks”
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## Optional Decorating Supplies

- Oil-based paint markers
- Permanent markers
- Paint pens
- Plastic-friendly paint
- Decorative stickers or decals
- Tape or sealant to protect designs

## Mosquito Bucket Challenge Stickers

Use these to clearly label the bucket and connect people to instructions.

- [Order on Zazzle](#): Mosquito Bucket Challenge sticker
- [Print at home](#): Mosquito Bucket Challenge sticker PDF
  - Provide clear tape so participants can attach and protect printed stickers.



These stickers are different from decorative stickers. They help identify the bucket’s purpose and include a QR code linking to instructions, making it easy for others to learn more.

*Participants can decorate their bucket with markers, paint, or decorative stickers, then add the Mosquito Bucket Challenge sticker so the bucket is clearly labeled.*

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## Additional Materials

- Pre-built demo bucket
  - [Printed Mosquito Bucket Challenge flyer](#)
  - Table coverings (optional)
  - Gloves (optional)
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## Additional Best Practices

- Dump standing water regularly
- Use multiple buckets for larger areas
- Place buckets where mosquitoes are active

- Use personal repellents instead of spraying entire yards

## Share Your Event

Did you host a Mosquito Bucket event?

Share photos and feedback:

<https://form.jotform.com/250544304605146>

## Bucket-Building Events and Examples



Barrington Green Team | Barrington NJ