

RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO KEEP ORNAMENTAL PONDS, FOUNTAINS, AND POOR DRAINAGE AREAS FROM BREEDING MOSQUITOES AND IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW



If you have any ponding water on your property, whether it is a man-made ornamental pond, fountain or other decorative water feature, or ponding water due to construction or poor grading, you are required by the Rockland County Sanitary Code to maintain it to prevent mosquito breeding to avoid potential fines.

PONDS/FOUNTAINS/DECORATIVE WATER FEATURES

- **CIRCULATE/AERATE THE WATER** – If your pond/fountain is equipped with a re-circulation pump or aerator, have it running at all times to keep the water moving. Mosquitoes tend to avoid laying eggs on water that is constantly moving/flowing. Be aware that if the recirculation or aeration of the pond does not affect the entire area of water, such as along the pond’s edges, then there is still potential for mosquitoes to lay eggs.
- **STOCK WITH MOSQUITO-EATING FISH** – Fish are a good way to maintain your pond/fountain naturally. Fathead and “Rosy Red” minnows are mosquito-eating species available in most pet stores or bait shops.
- **TREAT WITH A LARVICIDE (for self-contained ponds ONLY)** – Ponds can be treated with a larvicide (a product that kills mosquitoes before they emerge into adults). Mosquito larvicides can be purchased at most home improvement stores, garden centers, or on the Internet. **If you are going to use a pesticide on your property, the Rockland County Sanitary Code requires you to display a posting that includes the product label, date of treatment, amount of product used and the applicator’s contact information. Please follow all label directions.**
- **EMPTY/REMOVE YOUR POND** – If you are unable to maintain your pond/fountain using any of the above practices, you must keep it free of all water, fill it in, or remove it completely.

CONSTRUCTION/GRADING ISSUES

- **FILL OR GRADE THE AREA-** Any area that collects non-essential water on ground surface (depressions, tire ruts, holes, etc...) shall be filled or graded in a manner to eliminate standing water.

For more information, please visit
www.RocklandCountyNY.gov/departments/health



PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THESE ARE JUST SUGGESTIONS. THESE PRACTICES ARE ONLY ACCEPTABLE IF THEY ARE EFFECTIVE. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE SURE THAT THE ITEMS/AREAS OF CONCERN ARE NOT CAPABLE OF HOLDING WATER. IF ANY NON-ESSENTIAL WATER IS FOUND, IT IS A VIOLATION OF THE LAW!

To ensure compliance and avoid fines, or to report improper tire storage or other mosquito breeding concerns call 845-364-3173 or email: WNV@co.rockland.ny.us



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