



Adult mosquitoes lay their eggs in breeding sites. Typically these sites are standing water, however eggs can be laid in a dry place where water is likely to come at a later time.

The most common breeding places are ponds, wetlands, and still pockets of water along creeks and rivers. While these breeding sites are obvious, some of the others are not. Mosquitoes can breed inside of old tires, swimming pools, pool covers, tarps, rain gutters, buckets, tree holes and even flower pot saucers. Any container that collects water and protects it from being disturbed is a breeding site for mosquitoes.

## Shasta Mosquito & Vector Control District



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## MOSQUITO LIFE CYCLE

## Shasta Mosquito & Vector Control District

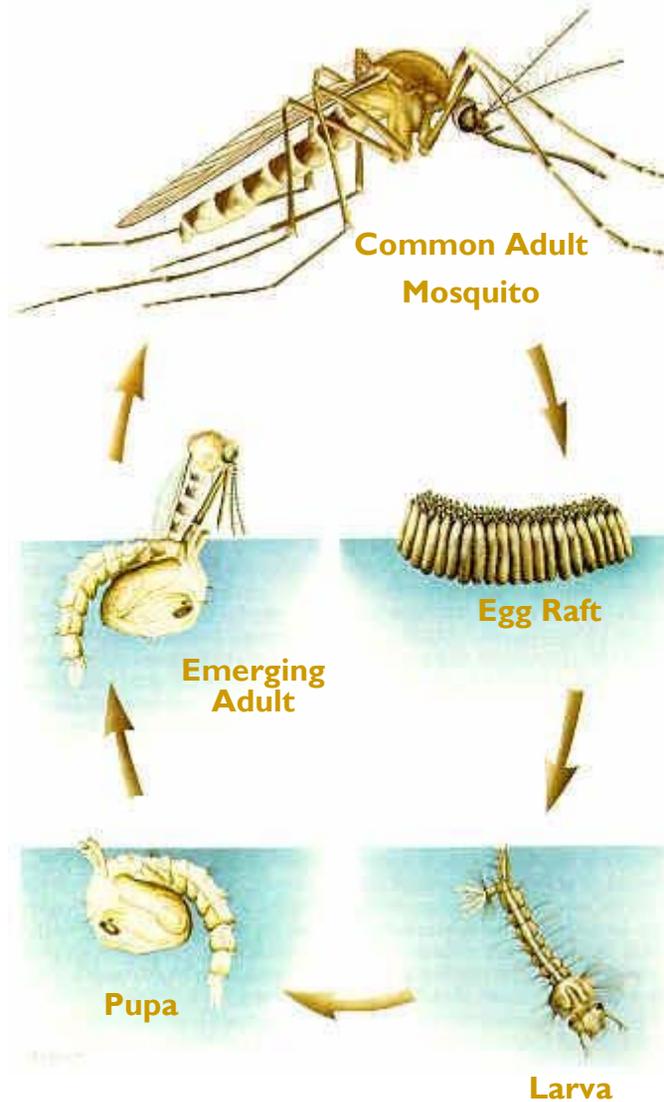


## Facts About Mosquitoes

- All mosquitoes must have standing water in which to complete their life cycle.
- During warm weather the mosquito may only need 4 to 7 days to become an adult.
- Mosquitoes never develop in grass or shrubbery although the flying adults frequently rest there during the daylight hours.
- Both male and female mosquitoes feed on plant juices, but only the female feeds on blood.



# Life Cycle of Mosquitoes



**Eggs:** The common mosquito lays a raft of 100-400 eggs on the water.

**Larva:** The larva or “wiggler” comes to the surface to breathe through a tube called a siphon. It sheds its skin four times during the next several days growing rapidly between each molt. On the fourth molt it becomes a pupa.

**Pupa:** The pupa cannot eat. It no longer has its siphon so it breathes through two tubes on its back called trumpets. The mosquito grows inside the pupa and in a few days it splits the pupal skin and emerges as an adult.

**Adult:** The newly emerged adult rests on the surface of the water until it is strong enough to fly away for something to eat.