

The DDWC News Forum

The DDWC News Forum is a newsletter from Associated Desert Dry Waterproofing Contractors. It is devoted to YOU, our clientele and designed to keep you informed on helath issues that are associated with standing yard water and water infiltration into your homes. In this issue we will look at two of the biggest culprits associated with standing water, high humidity and general dampness. Mold & the Mosquito! Both can affect the quality of your life and the value of your property.

Creeping Mold; It's Coming and You Need to be Ready

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In the construction industry, mold is growing into a threat which could subject contractors to significant liability.

The problem of mold may surpass the issues of asbestos and lead paint in terms of the size and frequency of claims. The science and law surrounding mold is in its infancy and many important question remain unanswered. However, mold is believed to be a potential source of many health problems for people in affected buildings, including toxic reactions to mold which may cause permanent neurological damage to children. Also, mold may cause structural problems in buildings as a result of the mold's natural metabolic processes which break down building materials. Importantly, once established, mold infestations may prove impossible to eradicate without significant repair or destruction of the premises. Consequently, damages caused by mold can run into millions of dollars.

The availability of insurance coverage for mold-related damages may be a considerable problem in the future. Many insurance companies are moving to disclaim damages related to mold. Under existing policies, there may be debate as to whether or not damage caused by mold is a result of poor workmanship, or a result of naturally occurring phenomenon. Also, insurance companies may attempt to disclaim coverage using the "pollution exclusion" contained in most insurance policies. Therefore, even if a contractor currently has insurance, a claim for mold related damages may not be covered.

Mold and its consequences, may affect design professionals, material-men, product transporters and

others involved in the construction process. Issues involving liability shifting for damages caused by mold will likely become more common. For example, large contractors have recently been requesting material-men to sign indemnity agreements or warranties that their products are moisture and mold-free. Thus, industry norms on the issue of mold are still in flux.

Currently, there are BOCA standards concerning moisture and ventilation in the interior of buildings, both of which may have an effect on mold growth. To date, no industry standards exist as to mold specifically. Until uniform standards are in place regarding mold, contractors should be wary of entering into any indemnity or warranty agreements concerning mold infestations without carefully considering the costs.

***What Does This Mean to You as a Homeowner?** Well, certainly it means keeping your basement as dry and moistur-free as possible. We at Desert Dry Waterproofing, have been eliminating the source of mold and mildew since 1968. While, this may be a relatively new concern to most of the construction trades it has been one of our main concerns for over 35 years. Most basements are potentially the perfect breeding ground for mold & mildew. By design, basements are below ground and susceptible to water infiltration — *the primary cause of mold*. Couple that with lack of air circulation and high humidity and alas — **MOLD !**

With our waterproofing remedies in place, and you closely following our guidelines for proper ventilation, you can live a safe and carefree existence in your "Desert Dry" home! We will guarantee that for life. If you would like more information, or to schedule an appointment for a **FREE**, no obligation estimate **call our toll free number: 1-800-238-8805** or visit us on the web at: <http://www.nomorewater.com>

*Last section written by DDWC



The Mosquito: An Awesome Predator
see reverse side.

The Mosquito: An Awesome Predator

Arboviruses

Mosquito-borne viruses are part of a group of pathogens known as arthropod-borne viruses, or arboviruses. Blood-sucking insects usually spread arboviruses.

One arbovirus that has generated much interest and news is the West Nile virus. Other mosquito-related illnesses not covered *in this article** include malaria, Dengue fever, yellow fever, California serogroup, Japanese, and Western Equine encephalitides.

There are more than 100 arboviruses that can cause human diseases, including encephalitis (or swelling of the brain). Most people infected with arboviruses do not have symptoms or may develop flu-like symptoms, but in a small number of cases, some infections can cause coma or death.

Arboviruses are most often detected during the summer months because that is when mosquitoes are most active. The organisms in which viruses survive the winter remain largely unknown.

Transmission

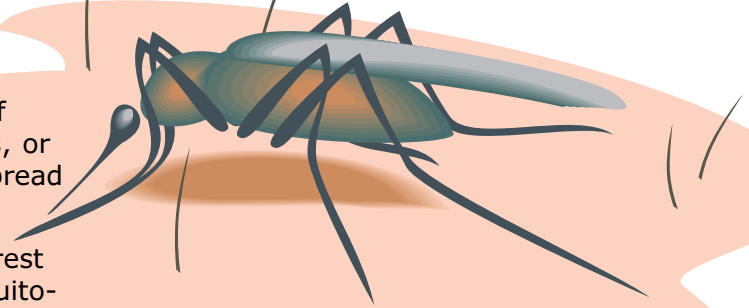
Few of the 2,000 species of mosquitoes carry microorganisms that cause disease in people. The source, maintenance, and transmission of the viruses are subjects still under study by researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) and elsewhere.

Arboviruses require a host (usually a bird or small mammal) in which they maintain themselves in nature and a vector, such as a mosquito, to get around and infect other organisms. Female mosquitoes may ingest a virus from an infected host and later pass the infection in their saliva when they bite another animal. Of the animals on which mosquitoes feed, birds are among the best-known hosts for arboviruses.

Humans and other animals such as horses are dead-end hosts for most arboviruses; they do not pass the virus to others or back to mosquitoes.

HSPH research of birds as hosts

Birds tend to collect in flocks that create available populations on which the mosquitoes may feed and in which viruses may amplify. HSPH researchers are investigating factors such as:



Types of bird. Certain birds such as crows, starlings, and robins may serve as better hosts.

Roost loyalty. The likeliness of birds returning to the same roost seems to increase their chance of maintaining the virus.

Roost density. The number of birds roosting at the same place seems to play a role in virus amplification.

Frequency of contact with mosquitoes. Birds that remain calm when they are bitten by mosquitoes seem to receive fewer bites than those that flutter a lot.

Control Methods

Public health agencies attempt to reduce the spread of arboviruses through a variety of methods. One of the most common methods of mosquito control is the placement of chemicals that kill mosquito larvae in storm drains and other places where water collects and mosquitoes breed; the chemicals are generally non-toxic to humans and other animals such as dogs and cats.

Sometimes agencies spray pesticides from trucks, helicopters or planes. There are some basic ways people can decrease their personal risk of contracting an arbovirus. See What You Can Do.

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*original text "by this website" <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/mosquito/>

Mosquitos Kill Five Times As Many People Each Year As Sharks Do!