Mosquito Life Cycle

*Aedes aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus*

It takes about 7–10 days for an egg to develop into an adult mosquito.

Female mosquitoes lay eggs in containers that hold water. Eggs hatch within a few days to months when covered with water.

Larvae live in water. They develop into pupae in as few as 5 days.

Pupae live in water. They develop into adult, flying mosquitoes in 2–3 days.
Life stages of *Ae. aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus* mosquitoes

**Eggs**
- Adult, female mosquitoes lay eggs on the inner walls of containers with water above the waterline.
- Eggs stick to container walls like glue. They can survive drying out for up to 8 months. Mosquito eggs can even survive a winter in the southern United States.
- Mosquitoes only need a small amount of water to lay eggs. Bowls, cups, fountains, tires, barrels, vases, and any other container storing water make a great “nursery.”

**Larva**
- Larvae live in the water. They hatch from mosquito eggs. This happens when water (from rain or a sprinkler) covers the eggs.
- Larvae can be seen in the water. They are very active and are often called “wigglers.”

**Pupa**
- Pupae live in the water. An adult mosquito emerges from the pupa and flies away.

**Adult**
- Adult female mosquitoes bite people and animals. Mosquitoes need blood to produce eggs.
- After feeding, female mosquitoes look for water sources to lay eggs.
- *Ae. aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus* don’t fly long distances. In its lifetime, a mosquito will only fly within a few blocks.
- *Ae. aegypti* mosquitoes prefer to live near and bite people.
- Because *Ae. albopictus* bite people and animals, they can live in or near homes.
- Mosquitoes live indoors and outdoors.

For more information on diseases spread by mosquitoes:
- [www.cdc.gov/chikungunya](http://www.cdc.gov/chikungunya)
- [www.cdc.gov/dengue](http://www.cdc.gov/dengue)
- [www.cdc.gov/Zika](http://www.cdc.gov/Zika)