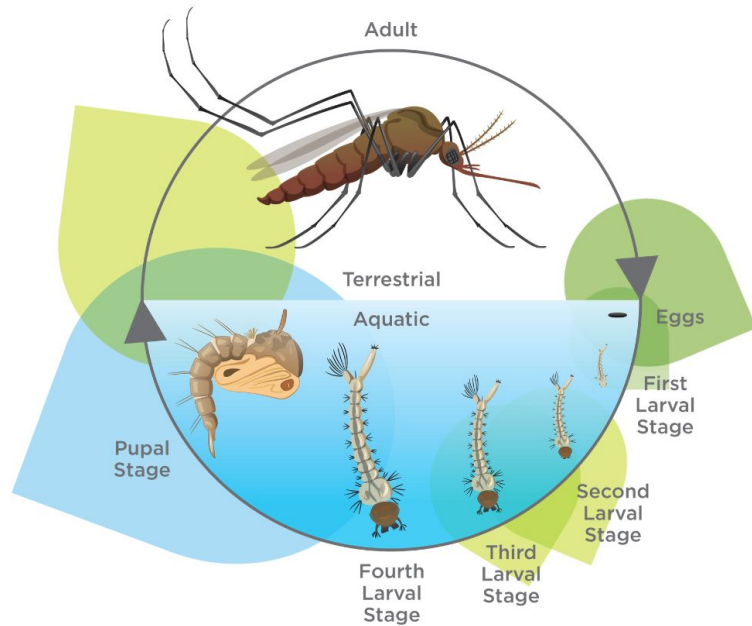


A photograph of a forest stream with a large text overlay. The stream flows through a dense forest with lush green foliage. The water is dark and reflects the surrounding trees. There are patches of bright green moss or algae on the rocks in the stream. The text "What is a Mosquito Habitat?" is written in a bold, white, rounded font with a black outline, centered over the middle of the image.

**What is a Mosquito
Habitat?**

The life cycle of mosquitoes has four stages: **egg**, **larva**, **pupa** and **adult**.

During the first three stages of this life cycle, the mosquito requires still or stagnant water to survive. The entire life cycle, from an egg to an adult, takes approximately 8-10 days.



Stagnant water, water without any flow or movement, is the primary characteristic of a mosquito habitat. Mosquito larvae spend the majority of their time on the surface of stagnant water.



Naturally Stagnant Water in Pond



Stagnant Water in Artificial Containers

Some of the most common conditions for mosquito populations increasing near human development are a result of **rain water** being captured in unintended containers around houses and backyards. Any object that can hold water can become a **breeding habitat** for mosquitoes.



Look around your room right now.

**If it were to rain, what objects would
collect and hold stagnant water?**



Remove items that collect water – Anything that is sitting around in your yard and that collects water is an open invite for mosquitoes to lay their eggs in. Buckets, tires, cans, etc. should be cleaned up.



Take care of your pool – If you have a backyard pool, make sure you keep it chlorinated and that it's circulating the water so mosquitoes can't lay their eggs in it.

Check drainage – Make sure your pipes aren't leaking into your yard, but also check that you're not overwatering your plants. This can cause puddles and provide a larval habitat.

Check gutters – Be sure to regularly clean your gutters to prevent water runoff and water pooling.

By preventing any suitable habitat for breeding, we can all control mosquito populations and the spread of the diseases they cause without the use of toxic chemicals such as insecticides.

