

THE VALLEY BUZZ

APRIL 2020



ANTELOPE VALLEY MOSQUITO AND
VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT



@avmosquito

Spring Update



BY BRENNA BATES-GRUBB

Hello Antelope Valley!

We are excited to debut our very first newsletter! During mosquito season (April-October), we will send out one of these newsletters at the beginning of each month. As the weather starts to warm up and mosquito season gets underway, we plan on using this newsletter to inform the community about important District updates and to provide helpful tips to reduce mosquito breeding so that we keep our community safe and informed this mosquito season.

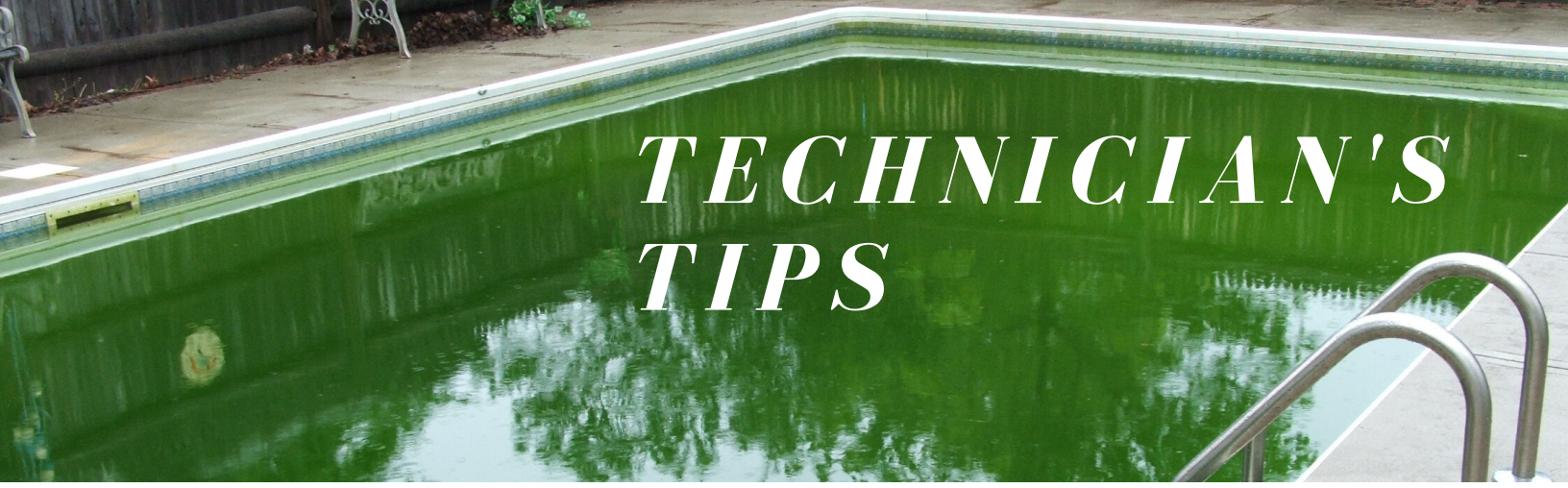
As we are aware, the Covid-19 situation continues to unfold and is ever changing. We want to remind the community that we are still operating and fulfilling our mission of mosquito control for the betterment of public health any enjoyment. Some aspects of our operations such as door to door inspections and community outreach events and presentations have been temporarily halted to reduce the risk of Covid-19 exposure for our staff members. Our office is also closed to foot traffic, but is open Monday through Friday (hours do vary) for phone calls or emails.

In the Antelope Valley, mosquito season typically spans from about April to October, but mosquitoes aren't unheard of in Fall and Winter due to the unseasonably warm temperatures in the Antelope Valley. This year our technicians first detected disease-spreading mosquitoes on March 4, 2020. It is important to remember that although we are distracted with Covid-19 at the moment, mosquito control still remains an important aspect of public health within our community.

DID YOU KNOW?!

Mosquitoes can complete their life cycle in the water in something as small as the saucer under your potted plant! Dumping out standing water in even the most unsuspecting sources can reduce the mosquito population around your home!





TECHNICIAN'S TIPS



Mosquito control is very much a community effort and ensuring that your pool is clean and maintained will help protect the health of our community!

Contact us!

M-F 8:00 A.M. TO 2:30 P.M.
661.942.2917
www.avmosquito.org

Mosquitoes need 2 main things to thrive: warm weather (this is why you notice mosquitoes the most during Spring and Summer) and a source of dirty stagnant water. Over the course of about a week, the mosquito life cycle takes place in four stages. The adult mosquito lays her eggs on the surface of standing water, larvae hatch out into the water, eventually turn into pupae, and adults hatch out of the pupal casing as flying adults. Once mosquitoes are flying adults, they have the ability to bite and transmit diseases and are thus considered a very real public health nuisance.

At the start of mosquito season, one of the first places our technicians typically find mosquito breeding is in dirty/unkept swimming pools. In an effort to save time and money, it is not uncommon for pool owners to let pool maintenance fall to the wayside during the winter season and then pick it back up during the summer months.

The issue with this is that as soon as warm weather hits, these unkept pools become a mosquito haven. Standing water containing organic matter provides the perfect habitat for mosquitoes to thrive. Just one unkept swimming pool can create hundreds of thousands of mosquitoes over the course of a few weeks. During the 2019 mosquito season we identified over 1,700 unkept swimming pools within District boundaries!

This is not only a nuisance to the homeowner but also to the surrounding houses, and is a major threat to public health. Because of this reason, unkept swimming pools are a major focus of our mosquito control efforts at the start of our season, and remain a huge focus throughout the remainder of mosquito season.

The District recommends that pools are always kept clean and maintained or completely dry at all times. Mosquito control is very much a community effort and ensuring that your pool is clean and maintained will help protect the health of our community!

But why don't mosquitoes like my clean pool?

- 1.) Mosquitoes don't tend to like the chemicals in a maintained pool.
- 2.) They need a source of organic matter (algae, bug remains, leaves etc...) to eat.
- 3.) The filter can create movement in the water that will drown mosquito larvae (although they live in water, they have to return to the surface to breathe).

Report a mosquito nuisance/dirty Pool:

Leann@avmosquito.org
avmosquito.org/contact-us.html