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MOSQUITO AND TICK PREVENTION

Provided by Patriot Pest Solutions

As winter fades and temperatures rise across Pennsylvania, homeowners begin preparing their yards for outdoor gatherings, gardening, and relaxing evenings outside. Unfortunately, spring also marks the return of two of the most persistent and potentially dangerous pests: **mosquitoes and ticks**.

The most common tick-related health concern in Pennsylvania is Lyme disease, transmitted by the blacklegged tick (deer tick). The bacterium responsible for Lyme disease was first identified in Lyme, which is how the disease got its name. Ticks become active when temperatures rise above freezing, meaning **early spring prevention is critical**.

Homeowners can take several proactive steps to reduce pest pressure before populations spike.

Tick Prevention

- ✓ Keep grass mowed to 3 inches or shorter
- ✓ Remove leaf litter and brush
- ✓ Create a 3-foot barrier of mulch or gravel between wooded areas and lawn
- ✓ Stack firewood neatly and away from the house
- ✓ Discourage deer with fencing or deer-resistant plants

- ✓ Check pets and family members after spending time outdoors

Mosquito Prevention

- ✓ Eliminate standing water weekly
- ✓ Clean and repair gutters
- ✓ Install or repair window and door screens
- ✓ Use outdoor fans on patios (mosquitoes are weak fliers)
- ✓ Plant mosquito-repelling plants like lavender and citronella
- ✓ Use larvicide treatments in areas where standing water cannot be removed

While DIY measures help reduce habitat, they often don't eliminate the root of the problem — especially in properties near wooded areas or water sources. There are times when professional treatment is the safest and most effective option. Consider hiring a professional if:

- You live near woods, creeks, or wetlands
- You've seen increasing mosquito activity year after year
- You or a family member has had Lyme disease
- You want protection for outdoor events (graduations, weddings, BBQs)
- You prefer season-long prevention instead of reactive treatment

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