



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE**

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Commissioner

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Dear Cemetery Manager:

The NYC Health Department reminds you that Section 151.03 of the New York City Health Code requires property owners to remove any accumulated water on their property between April 1 and October 31. Mosquitoes breed in standing water and spread West Nile virus and other diseases. Keeping your property free from accumulated water is the best way to protect your community from mosquitoes. Failure to comply with this regulation may result in summonses and fines.

Water in vases and other containers within cemeteries is a common issue. Although it is understandable that visitors may wish to place flowers in vases to pay respects, be aware that these containers provide a conducive environment for disease-carrying mosquitoes to breed. To comply with the Health Code, you must:

- Prohibit the use of all vases that can contain water **OR**
- Fill all vases and other containers in the cemetery with sand or soil and monitor these containers to ensure that no water is accumulating above the surface of the sand or soil.

Other potential sources of mosquitoes include:

- Ornamental lakes and ponds. Maintain these by stocking them with fish or by treating them with a Bti product (such as MosquitoDunks™ or MosquitoBits™)
- Water collecting in tree holes, on the roadway, in unused maintenance supplies, in lawn clippings, and elsewhere. Monitor these areas and remove standing water.
- Lawns. Take care not to overwater.

If the Health Department determines that spraying is needed at your cemetery to control high populations of disease-spreading mosquitoes, we will contact you by phone or email. Pesticide application occurs at night and is applied by spray trucks along roads within the cemetery.

Please see the enclosed brochures for tips on getting rid of mosquito breeding habitats. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Vector Surveillance and Control by email at mosquito@health.nyc.gov or find more information online at www.nyc.gov/health/mosquitoes.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

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