Prevent mosquito production in your septic tank

Mosquitoes in septic tank

Some SEPTIC TANKS can produce hundreds to thousands of mosquitoes each day. These mosquitoes might transmit viruses like dengue or West Nile that can cause serious illness.

YOUR SEPTIC TANK may be producing mosquitoes if it is:

- Open or unsealed
- Broken with cracks or spaces between the blocks
- Lacking a vent pipe screen

Open septic tank

Because septic tanks can produce mosquitoes, the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** recommend:

- Inspecting septic tanks regularly to look for missing covers, cracks or gaps in the blocks, and missing vent screens
- Repairing cracks or gaps in septic tanks
- Covering vent pipes with screen mesh

Broken septic tank cover

Open pipes

Uncovered vent pipe

How to inspect a septic tank to avoid producing mosquitoes:

- Verify that vent pipes are covered with screen mesh
- Make sure the pipe that goes into the tank is not broken and connections are sealed.
- Verify that the tank cover is sealed
- Verify that there are no cracks in the exterior walls of the septic tank and if cracks are found repair with cement.
- If the septic tank is not in use, fill it completely with soil.

National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases
Division of Vector-Borne Diseases

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