Prevent Mosquito Production in your Septic Tank

Mosquitoes can get inside broken or unsealed septic tanks and lay eggs. Each day thousands of mosquitoes emerge from poorly maintained septic tanks. These mosquitoes are capable of spreading viruses like dengue, West Nile, and chikungunya that can cause serious illness.

Inspect and maintain your septic tank to keep it sealed

Mosquitoes may be laying eggs inside your septic tank if it is:

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

Mosquito eggs will hatch into larvae and can be found swimming in septic tanks. To reduce your contact with mosquitoes examine your septic tank monthly, to look for missing covers, cracks or gaps in the blocks, and missing ventilation screens.

Mosquitoes in a septic tank

Repair broken septic tank covers

Cover ventilation pipes

Repair your septic tank

Prevent mosquitoes from entering and exiting your septic tank:

- Seal the septic tank.
- Repair cracks or gaps in the exterior walls of the septic tank using cement.
- Cover ventilation pipes with a screen mesh, repair broken pipes and seal at the joints.
- Fill abandoned or unused septic tanks with dirt or gravel.

Septic tank ventilation pipe with screen mesh

Septic tank with concrete cover

Septic tank sealed with PVC cap

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

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