

MOSQUITO CONTROL IN RAINWATER TANKS



Information about Mosquito Control in Rainwater Tanks

Mosquito Control

Rainwater tanks can provide very good habitats for mosquito breeding. The most effective control measure is to prevent access of adult mosquitoes. If access has occurred remedial action can be taken to prevent the release of mosquitoes.

Exclusion of Adult Mosquitoes

Ensure that unless in use all access points excluding the inlet and any overflows are kept shut with close fitting lids that will prevent access of mosquitoes. Inlets and overflows should be covered with closely fitting removable insect-proof screens. The screens should be made of non-rust material formed, typically, with 0.315 mm diameter material and 6 x 7 mesh openings per cm². The screens should be readily accessible for regular cleaning.

Control of Mosquito Larvae (Wrigglers)

Mosquito larvae (wrigglers) found in rainwater tanks indicate the presence of an opening through which the female mosquito can enter and lay eggs on the water. The opening should be closed. This will prevent further entry and will also prevent the escape of any hatched mosquitoes.

Larvae present in rainwater can be treated by the addition of a small quantity of domestic kerosene (5 ml per 1000 litres). Commercial or industrial kerosenes (e.g. power kerosene for tractors etc.) should not be used for mosquito control.

Kerosene should not be used in tanks coated with Aquaplate™. In addition, kerosene may not be suitable for use in tanks constructed or lined with plastic. If in doubt consult the manufacturer.

Used carefully kerosene will not provide any risk to human health but excessive amounts can taint the water and it is human poison. Kerosene should not be added when water levels are low. Kerosene added to the surface will not mix through the body of rainwater in the tank and it will either be washed out of the tank by overflow or it will evaporate.

For further information contact Council's Environmental Health Officer on 85690100.

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