

# On-Site Sewage Facilities (OSSFs) and Mosquitoes



Did you know that some OSSFs, also known as septic tanks, could produce hundreds of mosquitoes each day? OSSFs provide an ideal habitat for the southern house mosquito, which might transmit viruses like West Nile. These mosquitoes like dark areas to hide during the day and are attracted to the organic content of the water and the elevated temperature in the tank. Mosquitoes can enter through cracked or unsealed lids and vent pipes.



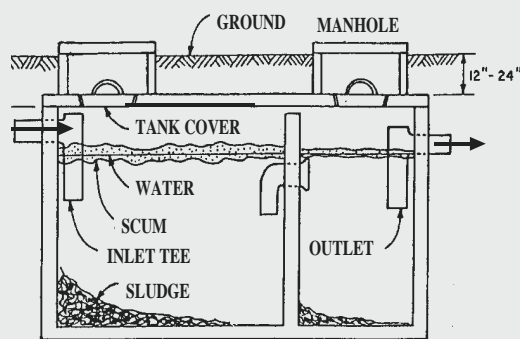
## How do I "mosquito proof" to prevent mosquitoes from entering the tank?

### ✓ Check for cracks and gaps in septic tank lids.

- Repair holes in the concrete lid with concrete patches.
- Replace the lid for a tight fit.
- Cover the lid with plastic and then several inches of dirt. Mark the location so it is easy to find.
- Do not cover a lid or manhole with plywood or boards. It will not provide adequate coverage and is unsafe for small children and pets.



## ALL SEPTIC TANKS MUST BE COVERED



### ✓ Verify that vent pipes are covered with screen mesh.

- Cover all vent pipes on the house and tank (if aerobic system) with window screen & secure with a hose clamp.
- Mold the window screen into a pyramid shape for vent pipes located under or near trees.

### ✓ Check sprayers on aerobic systems for broken sprinkler heads or areas of standing water.

### ✓ Make sure the OSSF is maintained.

- All systems should be inspected annually.
- Aerobic systems should have chlorine replaced regularly (do not use pool chlorine).

### ✓ If the OSSF tank is not in use, fill it completely with soil.



## I have an infestation, how do I get rid of them?

### ✓ Always follow product labels for application rates and safety precautions.

### ✓ Bti briquettes – contains a bacteria, Bacillus, which kills the larvae (wigglers). Longevity varies by product, typically lasts 30 days.

### ✓ Vegetable oil – pour in enough to barely coat the water surface to suffocate larvae (wigglers) and pupae (tumblers).

### ✓ S-methoprene – an insect growth-hormone regulator that prevents larvae (wigglers) from becoming adults. Lasts from 30-150 days.

### ✓ Once the tank is mosquito-proofed, adult mosquitoes should not escape and will die.

## RESOURCES

- For more on-site sewage facility information or to view the City's Mosquito Response Plan, visit [www.cityofdenton.com/water](http://www.cityofdenton.com/water).
- To follow the Watershed Protection Department on Facebook, visit [www.dentononline.com](http://www.dentononline.com).



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