MOSQUITO TRAP-N-KILL
LETHAL OVITRAP

FACT SHEET 18-083-0915

What is the Mosquito Trap-N-Kill and how does it work?

The Mosquito Trap-N-Kill is a reusable mosquito trap that both attracts and kills day-biting container-breeding mosquitoes that live around homes. Unlike traditional mosquito control methods, which apply pesticides over a large area, this trap uses a small strip of pesticide-treated plastic to kill mosquitoes the trap lures in. Female mosquitoes enter the trap looking for a good place to lay their eggs, then the pesticide strip inside kills the adult female and any larva that hatch from her eggs. The Trap-N-Kill attracts female Asian tiger mosquitoes (*Aedes albopictus*) and the yellow fever mosquitoes (*Aedes aegypti*), which spread debilitating diseases such as dengue, chikungunya, and yellow fever with a single bite. **The trap remains effective for up to 45 days, at which time owners should replace the pesticide strip or remove the trap to prevent it from becoming a breeding site for mosquitoes.**

The Mosquito Trap-N-Kill mimics a tree hole breeding site. It lures female mosquitoes inside and kills them. Photo: VID, APHC

Will just using the Trap-N-Kill reduce the number of mosquitoes in my area?

The Trap-N-Kill is most effective when used in combination with other mosquito control strategies. Mosquito larvae can develop in small amounts of standing water. Start by emptying or draining water from places where mosquitoes breed around your home and property. If water cannot be removed, consider applying larvicide to non-drinking-water containers. Common items and areas that collect water creating breeding sites are discarded bottles, cans, tires, flower pot saucers, cemetery urns, trashcans and lids, depressions in plastic tarps, clogged rain gutters, bird baths, plant leaf axils (bromeliads are a popular horticultural plant that produces many potential breeding sites), and natural tree holes. In areas without running water, residents store water in containers around their homes. These containers should be covered with mosquito-proof screens to prevent mosquitoes from breeding in the stored water. Continually assess your control efforts by checking for mosquitoes.

The yellow fever mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*). Photo: CDC / James Gathany

Where do I place the Trap-N-Kill for best results?

The Trap-N-Kill is designed for outdoors use. The best outdoor sites are in part or full shade areas exposed to weather, such as underneath trees or bushes. Protected areas like verandas and porches are less desirable. Place the trap near potential mosquito resting sites, such as walls, fences, hedges, shrubs, used tires, junk piles, or other areas protected from sun and wind. Do not place the trap in direct sunlight, or in windy or fully-exposed areas. Traps should be placed near or at ground level, with at least 12 inches of open space above the trap and place traps 25 feet apart. Keep traps out of reach of children and pets. Do not use the trap on tables intended for serving food.

How can I order the Trap-N-Kill?

For Department of Defense personnel, the Trap-N-Kill is available through the military supply system under NSN 6840-01-628-4751.

Army Public Health Center, Entomological Sciences Program
5158 Blackhawk Road, APG, MD 21010-5403
COM 410-436-3613 / DSN 312-584-3613 / Website: http://phc.amedd.army.mil

How do I set-up the Trap-N-Kill?

1. Remove the small insecticidal strip from package and staple the strip to the inside of the trap, just below the lid. Make sure the strip is between the entrance holes, **not** directly above them. Photo: VID, APHC

2. Place the red velour landing strip inside the canister, opposite the insecticidal strip, so the strip reaches from the bottom of the canister up and over the rim. Bend the red velour strip over the top edge. Photo: VID, APHC

3. Thread zip tie through one side hole and up through the hole in the top of the lid. Screw lid onto the canister making sure to hold the red velour strip in place. Tighten zip tie to secure lid. Photo: VID, APHC

4. Fill canister with water up to the side hole. Do not use chlorinated water to fill the canister. Label the trap with the date it was set up. **Replace the insecticidal strip after 45 days or remove the trap.** Photo: VID, APHC

What else should I consider when using the Trap-N-Kill lethal ovitrap to prevent dengue and chikungunya in my area?

The Asian tiger mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*). Photo: CDC / James Gathany

The Trap-N-Kill can be highly effective when integrated into a community-based dengue or chikungunya control program. For an average-sized home, distribute two to six traps into the surrounding yard. In non-residential areas, traps can be set every 25 feet in a line around the buildings or camp. Remember to eliminate other potential breeding sites that will compete with the Trap-N-Kill.

When controlling dengue and chikungunya, control measures should primarily focus on the yellow fever mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*) unless there is evidence that the Asian tiger mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*) is responsible for the local disease transmission. The yellow fever mosquito mainly breeds around homes, and most mosquitoes will stay within 100 yards of where these places. Its preferred habitats include water storage tanks/jars both inside and outside houses, roof gutters, leaf axils, bamboo stumps, and temporary containers such as metal drums, tires, tin cans, bottles and plant pots. These habitats typically contain relatively clean water. The Asian tiger mosquito also breeds in temporary containers, but prefers natural ones in forests, such as tree holes, leaf axils, ground pools, and coconut shells, and breeds more often outdoors in gardens and less frequently indoors in artificial containers.

The Trap-N-Kill lethal ovitrap simply and specifically controls container-breeding mosquitoes. It reduces the amount of pesticide used, easily integrates into mosquito management programs, and can be removed when mosquitoes are no longer a problem.

Where can I get more information about lethal ovitraps and mosquito control measures?

- Dept. of the Army, TB Med 561; Occupational and Environmental Health Pest Surveillance 1992
- Armed Forces Pest Management Board Technical Guide 47; Dengue and Chikungunya Vector Control Pocket Guide 2014
- Armed Forces Pest Management Technical Guide 48; Contingency Pest and Vector Surveillance 2013
- World Health Organization (WHO) 2009; Dengue, Guidelines for Diagnosis, Treatment and Control.
- Visit the Walter Reed Biosystematics Unit website (wrbu.si.edu), “Medically Important Mosquitoes” section, to search for more information about other container-breeding mosquitoes found throughout the world.