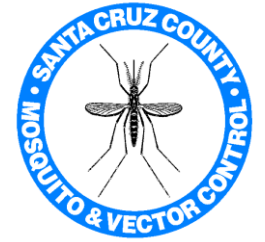


County of Santa Cruz



Office of the Agricultural Commissioner Mosquito and Vector Control CSA 53

640 Capitola Road, Santa Cruz, California 95062
(831) 454-2590 Fax (831) 464-9161 Internet www.agdept.com
Juan Hidalgo, Agricultural Commissioner Paul L. Binding, Manager

Santa Cruz County Mosquito and Vector Control (MVC) routinely finds high numbers of the "house mosquito", *Culex pipiens* breeding in septic tanks throughout the county.

This mosquito can breed densely in exposed septic systems and is a vector of West Nile Virus.

It enters the home and **bites at night**; with a tell-tale buzz that you may hear as you try to go to sleep. Septic systems may allow these mosquitoes access through small gaps in above ground lids, un-capped cleanouts or un-screened vents. A 2mm gap is all that is needed for a septic tank to become infested. Mosquitoes from one septic tank may affect an entire neighborhood.



The Northern House Mosquito, *Culex pipiens*

If you are on septic, we ask that you enlist our services by:

- **Reporting night-time mosquito activity (biting inside the home)**
- **Requesting a FREE inspection of yards, containers, pools/ponds, septic systems, etc.**
- **Asking for advice on mosquito-proofing septic systems**
- **Order a delivery of FREE mosquito-eating fish for ponds and unmaintained pools/spas**

Thank you for your help toward our goal of public health and safety.

Sincerely,

Santa Cruz County Mosquito & Vector Control
Pesthelp@santacruzcounty.us
(831) 454-2590



Thousands of adult mosquitoes under tank lid.

Mosquitoes can Breed in Septic Tanks

Mosquitoes can breed by the thousands in exposed septic tanks. They can enter and exit through above-ground covers with even very small gaps leading into the tank, or through the plumbing vents or clean-outs of the house or yard.

You can make improvements by:

- screening the vents
- capping the cleanouts
- improving the seal of tank lids with new parts (or even a plastic sheet and dirt)

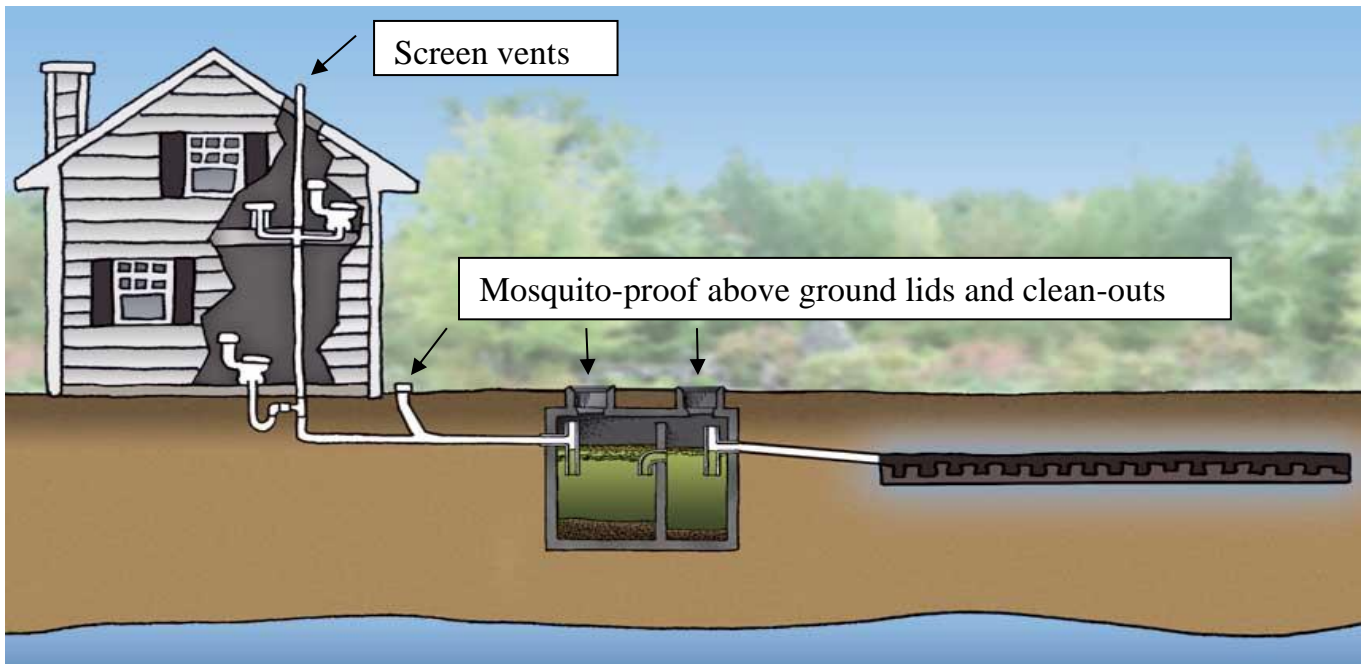


Diagram shows places in which mosquitoes can enter to lay their eggs in septic systems. Please ask for recommendations on how to secure holes in lids to prevent mosquito activity.

Parts to Improve Tank Seal:

Septic tank components come in different shapes and sizes, thus you might have to search parts that fit your tank specifications.

For example, Lid-to-Riser Adapters* can be a secure, watertight option and are especially useful when the top of the riser is uneven or has a damaged edge.

*Santa Cruz County Mosquito & Vector control does not specifically endorse Orenco Systems Inc. products.

