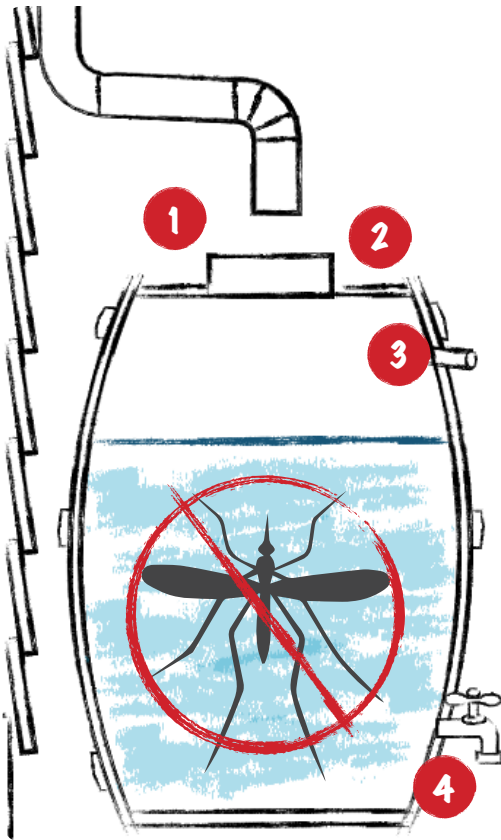


Keep Mosquitoes out of your Rain Barrel

Rain collection devices must be properly modified and maintained to keep mosquitoes out



1. Intake Opening

Always keep the intake opening covered with screen and tightly sealed. A double layer of fine mesh window screen is necessary to keep mosquitoes out. If flow is too great for screened lid, you can run the pipe directly into the barrel--make sure the connection is tight-fitting.

2. Decorative Top

Some rain barrels have design elements that can hold water or a rim that allows water to overflow and collect above the screen. Choose a barrel with a smooth top, keep the depressions filled with sand or remove water immediately after rains.

3. Overflow Port

This opening helps keep water from filling above the intake screen but if left open creates an access point for mosquitoes. Securing two layers of fine mesh screen around the opening is recommended.

4. Outflow Port/Valve

Because the outflow valve is an inch or two from the bottom of the barrel, when drained the barrel will still hold water in the bottom below the valve. The remaining water needs to be removed and the barrel should stay completely dry between rain events.

Mosquitoes need water to lay their eggs and grow. Rain collection devices create a perfect environment for them. Prevent mosquito breeding with these tips:

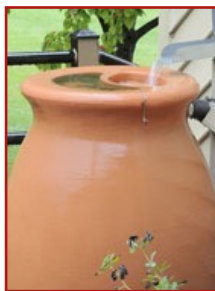
- Use collected rain water as soon as possible to reduce development of mosquitoes, bacteria, and algae.
- If you believe mosquitoes are growing in your barrel, remove **ALL** of the **WATER** immediately. This will kill any mosquito larvae growing inside.
- Regularly check the structural integrity of the barrel and quickly repair damaged or worn screens, clogged openings, and loose fitting lids or caps.
- Periodically scrub the inside of the barrel with warm, soapy water to remove mosquito eggs that are attached to the inside walls.

Failure to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes can result in increased health risks in your community, and may result in fines up to \$1,000 per day according to the California Health and Safety Codes 2000-2067

Examples of UNSAFE Rain Collection



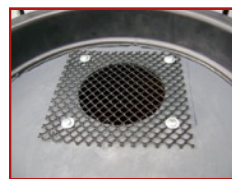
Modified or decorative tops will hold enough water to breed mosquitoes



Don't allow water to overflow above the screen or collect in the lid



For more information:
(831) 454-2590
640 Capitola Rd.
Santa Cruz, CA 95062
agdept.com/mvc.html



Large screens and perforated tops will **NOT** keep mosquitoes out

Adapted from San Gabriel Valley MVC