Mosquitoes Do Breed In Rainwater Tanks

Rainwater tanks provide excellent habitats for mosquito breeding. Mosquitoes have the potential to carry diseases such as Ross River Virus and therefore we should aim to minimise their breeding.

Mosquitoes usually lay eggs on the waters surface, damp ground and in containers like pot plant saucers, birdbaths and rainwater tanks. All mosquitoes require standing water to complete their life cycle and rainwater tanks are an ideal habitat for breeding mosquitoes. Adult mosquitoes can gain entry into a poorly constructed or maintained rainwater tank through any gap, opening or pipe

Preventing Mosquito Breeding

Mosquitoes and other nuisance insects need to be excluded from rainwater tanks. Unless in use, all access points, excluding the inlet and any overflows, should be kept shut with close fitting lids that will prevent mosquito access. Inlets and overflows should be covered with closely fitting removable insect-proof screens.

Mosquito Control

The preferred approach for managing mosquitoes and other insects is to keep them out of tanks. Detection of mosquito larvae (wrigglers) in rainwater tanks can indicate the presence of a gap through which the female mosquito can enter and lay eggs.

Gaps Can Occur:

- *in mesh used to protect inlets and overflows*
- *around inspection and access points*
- *between the roof and main body of the tank*
- *in the tank itself due to corrosion or physical damage.*

If mosquitoes are found in rainwater tanks, the point of entry should be located and sealed. As well as preventing further access, this will prevent escape of emerging adults. Inspect and clean gutters to ensure they do not contain ponded water. There is no ideal treatment to kill mosquito larvae present in rainwater. The two commonly recognised treatments involve adding chemicals (medicinal or liquid paraffin or kerosene) to tanks, however **these will need to be added to the rainwater tank on a regular basis.**

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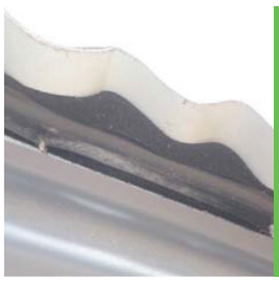
Mosquitoes Do Breed In Rainwater Tanks *(continued)*

Seal between the roof and main body of the tank



✓ Correct

✗ Incorrect

Mesh cover where the inlet pipe enters the tank

✓ Correct

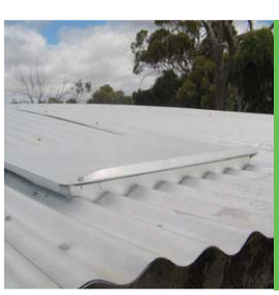
✗ Incorrect

Mesh cover on the overflow pipe

✓ Correct

✗ Incorrect

Sealed man-hole lid



✓ Correct

✗ Incorrect

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