

Mosquito Bucket Of Doom

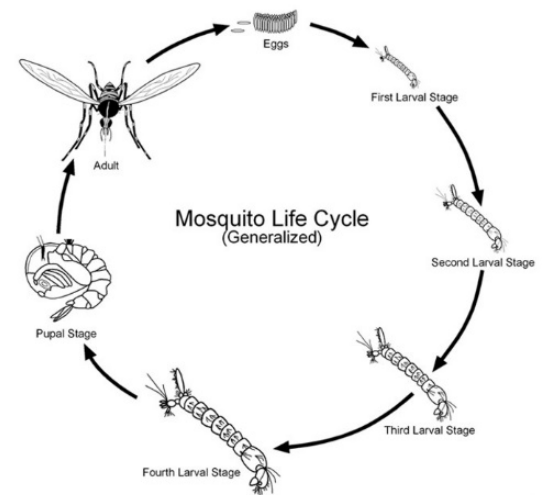
Get rid of MOSQUITOS before they hatch – KILL THE LARVAE in one big batch!

Logical? YES – even better, it is **Biological!!!**

The Mosquito Bucket of Doom (technically, a mosquito larvae trap) uses a natural bacterium that kills the pests in an immature life stage, so no adult mosquitos hatch. It's called "Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis" (if you want to learn some big words) OR a "BTi dunk" (if you want to be more easily understood).

"The most effective place to interrupt the mosquito's life cycle is in the larval and pupal stages."

- Dr. Doug Tallamy, University of Delaware
department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology



Note:
Each larval stage is larger than the previous one. Molting occurs between each larval and pupal stage.
Larval and pupal stages are aquatic.

Mosquito life cycle – Entomology Department, Purdue University

The simple Home Brew Recipe – mix:

- 1 bucket half full of water (any size is ok)
 - plus a handful of grass, leaves, or straw
 - plus 1/4 of a BTi dunk. You'll replace or add a new 1/4 of a dunk once each month, and that's it!
- You may want to add an 'escape stick' for small creatures such as birds, bees, chipmunks, etc.

The dunk in the bucket of water does the trick – kills the larvae that hatch from eggs laid by the adult female. She can't resist the carbon dioxide she smells when the plant material ferments in the water. The bucket can be any size, but should be covered with netting to prevent a drowning hazard (netting can be secured with string, or the inside of the lid can be cut out and placed over the netting). Recycling old containers, or using planters without holes, are good options for a bucket/trap – be creative! It's a simple and cost-effective way to respect our environment and also reduce the population of these blood sucking pests.

Placement – the Bucket of Doom can be placed in wet areas, gardens, and places people gather outdoors; just locate them in a discreet area where the fermentation odor won't be noticeable.

Where to buy the dunks? They're available at your local hardware store (we like local!), big box, or online. The dunks kill only mosquito larvae – they do not affect other insects, animals, birds, or fish. Dunks are safe for birdbaths and pools and fountains. They are NOT FOR TREATING DRINKING WATER!

ALWAYS tip, turn, and topple containers with standing water – so that your Bucket of Doom will become the most attractive place for the female mosquitos to lay their eggs.

MOSQUITO CONTROLS (IPM) - RESOURCES AND LINKS

These resources give more information about the mosquito larvae traps, and also provide additional tips and techniques to reduce mosquito habitat around your home. Mosquitoes need water to complete their life cycle; they have evolved to live in nearly every aquatic habitat. So understanding mosquito biology and behavior, and using integrated pest management strategies, helps in the management of backyard populations.

“Here’s the Best Way to kill mosquitos - instead of fogging” (1 minute video): Dr. Doug Tallamy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TqcDZDNtP-0>

How to set up a Mosquito Larva Trap (w/step by step pictures, FAQ): Audubon Society, northern VA

<https://www.audubonva.org/news/how-to-set-up-a-mosquito-larva-trap>

Mosquito Life Cycle (illustrated factsheet): CDC, division of vector-borne diseases

<https://www.cdc.gov/dengue/resources/factsheets/mosquitolifecyclefinal.pdf>

Battling Mosquitoes: Charlotte Glen, NC State Extension Master GardenerSM Program Manager

<https://pender.ces.ncsu.edu/2021/08/battling-mosquitoes/>

Mosquito Control Around Homes and in Communities: NC State Extension Publications

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/mosquito-control-around-homes-and-in-communities#breed>

Mosquitoes In and Around the Home: Purdue Extension, Entomology

<https://extension.entm.purdue.edu/publications/E-26/E-26.html>

Bti for Mosquito Control: US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

<https://www.epa.gov/mosquitocontrol/bti-mosquito-control>

Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) Fact Sheet: National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC)

<http://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/btgen.html>