

Mosquito Dunks:

Mosquito dunks are a form of larvicide that is used to kill mosquito larvae while they are still water borne and before they reach adulthood. The dunks are water-soluble tablets that contain a bacterium that is lethal to only mosquito larvae, and is safe for birds, pets, and other wildlife.



How to Use:

Mosquito dunks are very easy to apply to anticipated breeding grounds of mosquitoes and areas of water where you can see mosquito larvae. These are ideal to be used in pools of water, such as barrels of water, bird baths, tires, roof gutters, and in areas of standing water that have the potential to become mosquito larvae habitat or are already breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

First, always read the directions on the back of the package to establish how many dunks you should apply to the pool of water you are interested in larviciding. The directions on the back of each package state how many tablets should be placed in a certain square footage of water, and how often you should apply the larvicide.

Where can I buy mosquito dunks?

You can buy mosquito dunks at stores such as Walmart, Lowes, Home Depot, Tractor Supply Co., and even online on Amazon.

The Meigs County Health Department also has free mosquito prevention kits that include mosquito dunks that are available for pick up during our regular hours from 8am-4pm.

What are other alternatives to using pesticides?

If you do not want to use pesticides, there are still other ways to prevent mosquitoes from breeding around your home. If you have any structures that have the potential to hold water, you should frequently remove the water from them or store them in a covered area where they cannot collect rain water. These structures could include unused swimming pools, bird baths, toys, buckets, flower pots, and anything that can hold even the smallest amount of water, such as pop cans.

If you do have a bird bath in your yard, you should remove and add fresh water weekly to prevent mosquitoes from using it as a breeding site. Cleaning out your gutters can also help eliminate mosquito breeding grounds. Gutters can become clogged with debris, and when this occurs it can lead to stagnant water to remain in your gutters. By cleaning them out, you will be reducing the pooling of water that mosquitoes can use as a breeding site.

Swimming pools, if not treated with chlorine or other cleaning chemicals, can become the perfect breeding grounds for mosquitoes. If you are unable to add products such as chlorine to your pool, you can add circulation to the pool by leaving your pool pump run longer – female mosquitoes prefer to lay their eggs in stagnant water that has no circulation.

Resources:

For more pesticide resources and mosquito information, visit the Ohio Mosquito and Vector Control Association's website at: <http://www.ohiomosquito.org/resources.html>

To learn more about the Ohio Department of Health's "Fight the Bite!" initiative, visit their website at: <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/zoonotic-disease-program/resources/mosquito-borne-diseases>

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