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Septic Systems and Mosquitoes: What You Need to Know (Marin/Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District) — Nextdoor

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This is the official Nextdoor Page for the Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District. The Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District, founded in 1915, protects the health and welfare of the communities it serves from mosquitoes and vector-borne diseases by utilizing cost-effective, environmentally responsible integrated vector management practices. All programs and services are funded by property taxes and benefit assessments and are provided at no additional charge to residents in Marin and Sonoma counties.

About Marin/Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District

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[Public Relations Director Nizza Sequeira](#) from [Marin/Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District](#) · 26 Jul 17

Septic systems, particularly the tanks, provide an ideal habitat for *Culex pipiens*, (aka the House mosquito) because of the high organic content in the water and the warmth provided by the tank. As you may know, there are various types of septic system designs, all of which have the potential to produce mosquitoes if they can gain entry through even tiny openings in the vent pipes, cracked lids or improperly sealed risers. Placing plywood, boards, or any other material not designed to specifically for sealing a septic tank over a tank or riser/access points will not keep mosquitoes out.

Just one septic tank has the potential to produce hundreds of

thousands of mosquitoes per week. These mosquitoes, once dispersed could enter other septic systems in your neighborhood, lay eggs and begin new populations. This often results in neighborhood-wide mosquito biting problems. The house mosquito is also known to transmit mosquito-borne viruses such as West Nile virus, a potentially life threatening illness.

Here are a few ways to prevent mosquitoes from reproducing in your septic tank:

- Check for cracks in lids and seal or replace to ensure a tight fit.
- Be certain that lids are properly fastened and secured.
- Screen vent pipes with a mosquito-proof screen (fine mesh that is 1/16th of an inch or smaller).
- Some septic tank lids have screws and gaskets which allow for a tight seal. These need to be inspected and replaced, if necessary, in order to maintain a proper seal.

Residents experiencing a mosquito problem can call the Marin/Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District for assistance at 1.800.231.3236. Programs and services are supported by property taxes and benefit assessments and are provided at no additional charge. To learn more about mosquito and vector control visit www.ms mosquito.com or call 1.800.231.3236.

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