

MOSQUITO CONTROL IDEAS

With recent news of the West Nile Virus and other mosquito borne diseases mosquito control is becoming more important. Here are some tips.

Mosquito Dunks

Mosquito Dunks, or BTI, is an over-the-counter product that kills mosquito larvae (the young aquatic stage of the mosquito). It is a natural pathogen to mosquitoes that causes the wall of their intestine to dissolve. It is essentially non-toxic to all other organisms, including people, except for some flies closely related to mosquitoes. BTI is most effective in shallow water and especially where mosquito fish cannot live. Mosquito dunks are donut-shaped briquettes which contain BTI. They can be purchased at:

Home Scapes Statuary Gardens 2504 Main St., Soquel; 462-2260

San Lorenzo Lumber Garden Center 235 River Street, Santa Cruz; 426-1020

General Feed and Seed Company 1900 Commercial Way, Santa Cruz; 476-5344

Orchard Supply Hardware 1601 41st Ave., Capitola; 475-7701

Scarborough Garden Center 33 El Pueblo Road, Scotts Valley; 438-4106

Mosquitofish

Mosquitofish are small minnows that eat mosquito larvae and other aquatic organisms. They are most effective in small, contained ponds and water troughs and shouldn't be released into large natural habitats. Mosquito fish are available for free. Call the Capitola Road office of the Santa Cruz Mosquito and Vector Control District at **(831) 454-2590**.

The website below will provide further information on mosquito abatement.

<http://www.santacruzhealth.org/phealth/cd/WestNile/4mosquito.htm>