

# A Few Tips to Make Your Mosquito Trap Work Even Better

Female mosquitoes are attracted to Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from our breath, this is how they locate their next feed of blood. Male mosquitoes don't bite as they don't need a feed of blood to reproduce, like the female mosquitoes do. Mosquito traps constantly reduce population of mosquitoes but they won't attract male mosquitoes.

Mosquito traps operate by producing Carbon Dioxide CO<sub>2</sub> and the traps should operate 24/7 to lure in mosquitoes when they enter the area. If you only turn it on when you are outside, then you are the primary source of CO<sub>2</sub> and the mosquitoes will be lured to you rather than the trap. Leave the trap turned on all the times. Some mosquito traps will have the option of operating 12 hours a day or 24 hours a day; they shutdown during daylight hours. If you live in an area where Dengue Fever may be a problem, then leave the trap running 24/7 as the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito is active during the day, and all mosquitoes can be active on overcast days.

The trap produces CO<sub>2</sub> through the action of light shining on titanium. If the trap is in a windy area, then the CO<sub>2</sub> will be dispersed quickly and it will not accumulate around the trap. The more sheltered the trap is, the more effective it will be. Mosquitoes also like to hover just above the ground and bite your ankles so put the trap down low and shelter it by placing it under a table, against a wall or in a quiet corner. Don't place it in a group of pot plants as plants through photosynthesis convert the CO<sub>2</sub> to oxygen. If your trap is not working effectively, then move it to another location. If you have an elevated deck, you may find that the trap works best by placing it under the deck where the mosquitoes shelter during the day. The traps are designed to work outdoors but under cover. The traps are electrical appliances and should not be exposed to the rain, dew or irrigation.

If you are placing a trap indoors, the best places are under a desk, behind a TV, under a bed, in a wardrobe with the door left ajar or under a table. Ceiling fans will disperse air, reducing the efficiency of the trap. If your house doesn't have insect screens, then you may need to protect yourself both inside and out, but traps placed outside are the first line of defence and will reduce the number of mosquitoes in your yard, which reduces the risk of them getting into your house in the first place.

The trap will attract other insects too, not just mosquitoes. It will collect moths as they are attracted to the light at night. This is another reason for placing the trap down low as moths are drawn from further away when the trap is up high. The decaying bodies of insects in the trap will naturally produce CO<sub>2</sub> adding to the efficiency of the trap, so don't empty it, too often.

If your problems persist, you may also want to consider spraying under elevated homes or in gardens with natural Pyrethrum. Always remember that natural Pyrethrum is broken down by UV light so it should be sprayed late in the afternoon or the evening for maximum benefit. It is used as a natural pest control in horticulture and is plant safe.

Some manufacturers claim that the light bulbs lose their efficiency after 12 months and the bulbs should be replaced then. Check your product instructions for more information.