Inside your egg collection kit

Once you are registered on our [zika-mozzie-seeker](https://metrohealth.qld.gov.au/zika-mozzie-seeker) website you will receive a free ‘mozzie egg collection kit in the post. This kit provides most items you need to create a mozzie egg trap. You just supply a container and water.

The kit will be mailed out when the next Round of trapping starts. Further instructions on kit construction, including a video, are on the website.

If you have any questions about the project please send an email to MSPHU-Med-Ent@health.qld.gov.au

A: Create your mozzie egg trap

1. **Select** your container: Something large (e.g. 2 L) like a plastic milk carton, soft drink bottle or ice cream bucket is ideal (see A, below), because it is less likely to fall over and won’t dry out.

   Dark containers are most attractive to domestic, or urban, mozzies. If you don’t have a dark container, you can place your container inside something darker, like a black plant pot bucket (see B, below).

2. **Rinse** your container twice with clean water before use. You **may** need to cut off the top of plastic containers to create a large opening to easily allow mozzies to enter (see A, above).

3. **Hang** the ‘egg collection strip’ (supplied) **inside** the container, so that it touches the bottom. Fix it in place (see C, below) using a paper clip (supplied). Trim off any excess strip outside of the container (see D, below).

4. **Fill** the container with tap water (about three-quarters full); enough to last for two - three weeks.

5. **Add** the pellet (lucerne) to the water (more than one will spoil the water).

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A Metro South Health citizen science project

B: Leave the trap outside for two weeks (14 days)
An ideal location for your trap is under cover (under eaves, under a verandah). Place the trap:
- away from disturbance by pets or children;
- out of the rain and wind and away from hoses or sprinklers.

Any urban mozzies visiting your yard will lay their eggs (<1 mm) on the egg collection strip (see E, below).

**The eggs need to stay unhatched.** Please do not refill the bucket or splash water to prevent eggs hatching. If you see mozzie larvae (‘wrigglers’; see F, below), please tip the water out.

C: Check for mozzie eggs
After two weeks, do you see any eggs on the collection strip? Don’t worry if you’re not sure – they can be confused with dirt or eggs from other creatures.
- No eggs? Please leave your egg trap out for one more week; or send us a photo!
- I see eggs! It’s time to send them in.

D: Return the egg collection strip
Please return the egg collection strip after three weeks (maximum), with or without eggs.

1. **Remove** the egg collection strip from the bucket.
2. **Mop** up any excess water on the strip by placing it on the blotting paper (supplied) for a few seconds.
3. **Wrap** the damp egg collection strip in the blotting paper (see G, below) and place it in the barcoded sealable bag (see H, below).
4. **Seal** and place the barcoded bag into the pre-addressed envelope and mail to us. it is free to send because the envelope is ‘postage paid’. Thank you, you are now a Zika Mozzie Seeker!