

CHOOSING REPELLENTS VS. INSECTICIDE

Step 1:

Decide between an **insecticide** (to kill mosquitoes) or a **repellant** (to keep them away). This decision is based on your answer to the question: "**How bad are my mosquitoes?**"

- a) If the answer ranges between "Annoying" and "Very Bad", then opt for an insecticide.
- b) If your answer is "Not-so Bad", then opt for a repellant that will provide temporary control on an as-needed basis.

Step 2:

Decide between a permanently attached **perimeter system** or a **portable unit**:

- a) A **permanently** attached system can dispense either an insecticide or a repellant.
- b) A **portable** system dispenses repellant.

Step 3:

Decide what area you want to **protect** for biting insects.

- a) Back yards are most often selected; however, the front door and over the garage should also be considered.

Step 4:

Decide who should install a permanent system.

- a) A part-time installer? This is a person or a company that installs mosquito misting system as a sideline to their primary business; pest control, landscaping, etc.
- b) A company that specializes in mosquito misting? These highly specialized companies are few and far between but are, by far, the most reliable installers.
- c) Do-it-Yourself kits? These are often found on line. However, this is a classic "buyer beware" option. Proper design for your needs are often not effective. The "base price" is usually the eye-catcher; final costs, by the time the system is fully designed, are usually about the same as having the system installed for you. Listed "options" are usually essential to making the system work for your yard. There is no warrantee, which is usually offered by professional mosquito misting companies.

Step 5:

What should I expect to pay?

a) **Permanently** installed systems have 2 distinct costs to consider:

- 1) The "*price*" of the system; ie, the investment to purchase and install the components.
- 2) The "*cost*" of the system; ie, the expense of the chemicals and maintenance.
- 3) These systems are custom designed for each home so an "average price" is not helpful. When pricing a system for your home take advantage of "free estimates" offered by installers and then be sure to compare "*apples to apples*". This will also give you the opportunity to evaluate the company which must stand behind their product.

For portable **repellant** systems:

- a) There are many designs, styles and concepts. As a result, prices vary widely.
- b) Consider the cost of chemicals and replacement parts and their availability.
- c) These portable units are available from retailers and on line sellers.