

Every night time, a mass assassin stalks the darkness of America's suburbs. An eerie blue glow lures hapless victims from their houses. The doomed souls, mesmerized by the sunshine, throng to their deaths in scorching blasts of electricity. I'm talking about the bug zapper. Many individuals use the gadget to rid themselves of mosquitoes and different pests. "Kill flies, mosquitoes, gnats, and wasps," touts Black and Decker. Flowtron will assist get rid of flying pests over up to "2 acres" for just \$315. Another advertises itself as an "eco-friendly" approach to "instantly kill" mosquitoes. The problem? None of these claims are true, scientists say. In actual fact, [UV bug zapper](#) zappers make it more possible you'll be bitten by mosquitoes while sitting in your backyard. "When it comes to mosquitoes, [electric bug zapper](#) zappers don't work," says James Fordyce, an entomologist at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Bug zappers are exceptional killers of bugs - just not the ones that bite you. Among the many 1000's of insects these units electrocute every night time, virtually all are harmless. (Image:

<https://p0.pikist.com/photos/445/355/full-moon-moon-night-sky-cloudy-mottled-foggy-round-bright-thu-mbnail.jpg>)

(Image:

<https://i5.walmartimages.com/asr/63d56e84-25c6-4274-b894-1527a9950da2.781aa130fd5a07770bcd1b9160d4992.jpeg?odnWidth=1000&odnHeight=1000&odnBg=ffffff>) One study estimated even a fraction of the [bug zapper light](#) zappers offered within the United States kill greater than 70 billion insects yearly - with no discernible influence on mosquitoes or other biting insects. This pointless slaughter of local insect populations could also be hastening the decline of species, the insect apocalypse. I talked to specialists about why bug zappers are a really unhealthy concept to eliminate mosquitoes - and what works instead. Bug zappers purport to work by attracting mosquitoes, usually using a lightbulb that emits ultraviolet light, [electric bug zapper](#) or sometimes carbon dioxide or [electric bug zapper](#) chemical bait. Yet research present just about no mosquitoes or other biting insects ever enter a zapper. In 1997, the University of Florida's medical entomological laboratory tallied the death toll from one bug zapper over a single evening: 10,000 insects. Just eight had been mosquitoes. Similar research reflected those findings. Around the identical time, researchers on the University of Delaware used a bug zapper to lure 13,789 insects over a summer time.

Only 31 - 0.22 % - had been biting insects similar to mosquitoes and gnats. What did it kill? Beneficial bugs, mostly. Roughly half the victims - 6,670 insects - have been harmless aquatic species from close by rivers and streams, fish food within the aquatic meals chain. Lots of the others were parasitic wasps and beetles that naturally prey on mosquitoes. Mosquitoes are not fooled by zappers as a result of, together with different bloodsucking insects, [electric bug zapper](#) they've developed to home in on animals' exhaled carbon dioxide, not ultraviolet gentle, scientists say. Even when mosquitoes are drawn in by a [outdoor bug zapper](#) zapper, they are going to immediately redirect their attention to their favourite foods: warmblooded mammals, especially humans. And Colorado State University's extension service has reached the same conclusion: "No controlled scientific research has proven that these devices reduce mosquito biting rates outdoors," it states on its web site. None responded with material supporting their claims after multiple inquiries.

Black and Decker referred all questions to a contract producer, which additionally didn't respond. These claims not only mislead buyers by ignoring scientific evidence, however they might create a false sense of safety for people who use these gadgets to protect against mosquito-borne diseases in the United States, Fordyce said. "If one want to avoid being bit, a repellent is the solution," he says. "Even if zappers worked ... The FTC, while not commenting on the companies' advertising statements, famous that it had investigated deceptive statements and security points in the past issuing warning letters and filing circumstances towards manufacturers of other types of pest management, akin to ultrasonic units. FTC officials recommended the public submit any complaints by way of their webpage. What does repel mosquitoes? Bug zappers are simply certainly one of many suspect

products promising to eliminate biting insects: ultrasonic devices, propane-fired CO2 traps, and pesticide misters are among these that do not work, or do more harm than good, in response to Texas A&M.

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Last update: **2025/08/12 15:55**