

Every evening, a mass murderer 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 sizzling blasts of electricity. I'm speaking in regards to the bug zapper. Many people use the machine to rid themselves of mosquitoes and different pests. "Kill flies, mosquitoes, gnats, and wasps," touts Black and Decker. Flowtron will help eliminate flying pests over as much as "2 acres" for simply \$315. Another advertises itself as an "eco-friendly" solution to "instantly kill" mosquitoes. The issue? None of those claims are true, scientists say. In reality, bug zappers make it more seemingly you'll be bitten by mosquitoes whereas sitting in your backyard. "When it involves mosquitoes, bug zappers don't work," says James Fordyce, bug zapper light an entomologist on the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Bug zappers are distinctive killers of bugs - just not the ones that bite you. Among the many 1000's of insects these units electrocute each night, virtually all are harmless.

(Image:

https://media.istockphoto.com/id/1041785156/photo/electric-fly-and-insect-killer-with-green-uv-lamp-reliably-protects-from-insects.jpg?s=612x612&w=0&k=20&c=_5VIOrYzv0tNt-O21Qnnz-5p3rBbc5aasNEjE4uChbE=)

One research estimated even a fraction of the bug zappers sold within the United States kill more than 70 billion insects yearly - with no discernible impact on mosquitoes or different biting insects. This pointless slaughter of native insect populations could also be hastening the decline of species, the insect apocalypse. I talked to experts about why bug zappers are a very bad concept to eliminate mosquitoes - and what works as an alternative. Bug zappers purport to work by attracting mosquitoes, typically using a lightbulb that emits ultraviolet gentle, or generally carbon dioxide or chemical bait. Yet studies show virtually 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 night: 10,000 insects. Just eight were mosquitoes. Similar research mirrored those findings. Around the same time, researchers at the University of Delaware used a bug zapper to trap 13,789 insects over a

Only 31 - 0.22 p.c - have been biting insects similar to mosquitoes and gnats. What did it kill? Beneficial bugs, principally. Roughly half the victims - 6,670 insects - have been harmless aquatic species from close by rivers and streams, fish meals within the aquatic food chain. Lots of the others have been parasitic wasps and beetles that naturally prey on mosquitoes. Mosquitoes are not fooled by zappers as a result of, along with other bloodsucking insects, they've advanced to dwelling in on animals' exhaled carbon dioxide, not ultraviolet light, scientists say. Even when mosquitoes are drawn in by a bug zapper, they may immediately redirect their consideration to their favourite foods: warmblooded mammals, particularly humans. And Colorado State University's extension service has reached the same conclusion: "No managed scientific examine has shown that these devices cut back mosquito biting charges outdoors," it states on its web site. None responded with material supporting their claims after a number of inquiries.

Black and Decker referred all questions to a contract producer, which also didn't reply. These claims not solely mislead patrons by ignoring scientific evidence, however they could create a false sense of security for people who use these units to protect towards mosquito-borne diseases in the United States, Fordyce mentioned. "If one wish to keep away from being bit, a repellent is the solution," he says. "Even if zappers worked ... The FTC, whereas not commenting on the companies' advertising statements, noted that it had investigated misleading statements and security issues up to now issuing warning letters and filing instances in opposition to manufacturers of other varieties of pest control, resembling ultrasonic units. FTC officials recommended the general public submit any complaints by way of their web site. What does repel mosquitoes? Bug zappers are just one of many suspect products promising to do away with biting insects: ultrasonic gadgets, propane-fired CO2 traps, and pesticide misters are amongst those that do not work, or do more harm than good,

according to Texas A&M.

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