

Subj: Vectors

Vector concerns have been raised due to outbreaks of West Nile virus and Equine Encephalitis.

Although any standing water may offer the potential for mosquito breeding, reports indicate that some receptacles are clearly worse than others. Beverage cans, bottles, tires, and other vessels with a small amount of protected stagnant water were reported to offer the greatest potential for mosquito breeding.

The SNOUT vented hoods are typically used in catch basins with sumps, which results in a quantity of standing water being present in the structure at all times. Historically the use of hoods and sumped catch basins, whether for municipal storm sewers, or combined sewers, has been a common practice in many areas of the United States for more than 100 years.* Studies from these areas have shown that catch basins with sumps and hoods have been found to present minimal insect problems.**

Any device that traps oils, greases, and floatable debris on the surface of captured water will have a negative impact on breeding potential for mosquitoes. The oily film and debris alters the surface tension of the water in the catch basin thus hindering larvae from snorkeling as a part of their respiration process. This makes an unhealthy environment for the larvae. Anecdotal evidence also suggests that emergence of adult vectors to be hindered.

Typically a snout installed in a catch basin collects its water and trash from road and vehicle traffic contaminated runoff, therefore there is little to support the fear of vector propagation in this environment.

*(New England, Mid Atlantic, Pacific Northwest, Midwest, Southeast).

**Pitt and Field, An Evaluation of Storm Drainage Inlet Devices for Stormwater Quality Treatment, 1998).

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