

# In2Care<sup>®</sup> Mosquito Station – Troubleshoot Questions

In2Care Stations have proven to be effective. In case the expected results in the customer's yard are not achieved, consult all the questions below.

## **Have you used the available support?**

With a proper technical background, you will increase your success with the In2Care Stations. You can follow a Stewardship training, download and read the quick installation guide, and watch our instruction videos. Find all your support on [www.in2care.org/marketing](http://www.in2care.org/marketing).

## **Are all the Stations in the shade 100% of the time?**

In2Care Stations should be kept out of direct sunlight for optimal effect. Placement is best in a shaded location, under vegetation, and sheltered from wind. Breeding sites in shaded and vegetated areas are preferred by mosquitoes. More mosquito visits to the In2Care Station will lead to improved efficacy.

## **How many larvae can be found in the Stations?**

Larvae should be found in the water of the In2Care Station to confirm that the Stations are working well. Larvae density will depend on the overall area mosquito population. If the mosquito density is light, a few larvae will be found inside the Station. If it is heavy, there should be several larvae, but it could even be dozens or hundreds. If there are no or few larvae, consider moving the Station to another shaded area, which might be only a few feet away.

## **How long ago have the Stations been installed?**

The In2Care Stations primarily target the next generation of mosquitos. A notable reduction in the mosquito population should be seen in 2-3 weeks. If there is a need for a quicker response, a misting barrier with a micro-encapsulated pyrethroid is recommended.

For most effective control, you may place the In2Care Stations before or at the beginning of the mosquito season. This way, mosquito populations get controlled before it reaches levels that prompt a customer call.

## **How many Stations are installed?**

Installing 10-15 Stations per acre is advised. Most typical size US yards can get by with 2-3 Stations when installed in the right location. If the yard or surrounding areas contain many (inaccessible) breeding sites, you should use more Stations. Place 1 Station per 4300 ft<sup>2</sup>, for areas with tall grass, ground cover, bushes, and decks that harbor mosquitoes. Station do not have to be placed inside the house, open or dry areas that don't harbor or provide mosquito breeding sites.

**Where in the yard are the Stations installed?**

Proper placements is key for successful mosquito control. In a typical size US yard you will need 2-3 In2Care Stations. The Stations work more effectively when one is placed close to where humans spend time, such as a deck or terrace. The other one or two Station can be placed further out towards the green belt or neighbor's yard along the fence line. These Stations near the green belt or neighbor's yard will help get the larvicide to adjacent breeding sites.

**Do all the Stations have water in them?**

A dry Station does not attract and control mosquitos. If you provide mosquito services in a dry climate, you may need to check back in 2 weeks to ensure enough water is in the Station. However, rain or any vertical water source will automatically funnel water via the lid into the container. If the Station runs dry before the replacement of the actives is required, you can fill it up with water, and the larvicide is as good as if it never dried up. Under normal circumstances, the Station will not dry out before the next servicing round.

**What is the water quality in the Station when servicing?**

When servicing the Station you can remove debris and top off with water. Filthy and smelly water can deter *Aedes* mosquitoes to lay eggs in the Station. If water is dirty and smelly, empty the Station completely when servicing. Per the label, you can dump the remaining water on the ground and fill the Station with fresh water at each service.

**Do the neighbors have a lot of green area, bushes, or ground cover?**

Understanding the mosquito breeding areas surrounding your customer's yard is essential. *Aedes* mosquitoes can fly as far as 200 yards for a blood meal but typically limit their travels to around 20 yards. Placing a Station close to adjacent mosquito breeding areas, for example along a fence, is advisable.

**Is your customer on a green belt?**

Green belts can have pockets and standing bodies of water that often breed night biting (*Culex*) mosquitoes. Most of their breeding sites will be affected by the spread of larvicide from the In2Care Station. However, the transfer of larvicide is not effective to control mosquito larvae in larger bodies of water. When the larger body of water cannot be removed, manually applied larvicide application of products containing actives such as pyriproxyfen, novaluron, BTI, Methoprene, or Spinosad may be needed. Check local regulations before applying.

**What direction is the yard facing?**

Mosquitoes tend to rest in shaded areas near their breeding site and blood meal. In the summer, mosquitos prefer cooler, generally north and east-facing spots away from direct sunlight. Pay particular attention to bushes, ground covers, and other potential resting areas in these areas and consider In2Care Station placement there.

**Have you checked the yard to eliminate visible mosquito breeding sites and pockets of water?**

Source reduction is an essential aspect of any integrated mosquito program. Reducing visible mosquito breeding sites and pockets of water allows for faster and better spreading of the larvicide from the In2Care Station to breeding sites that are difficult to locate or inaccessible.

**When are your customers getting bitten?**

This is a great questions to ask your customer. Biting times depend on the species of mosquitoes! Yellow Fever and Tiger Mosquitoes from the Aedes genus are aggressive day biters. Whereas Common House Mosquitoes from the Culex genus bite primarily at night. In2Care Stations are approved and labeled for the control of both Aedes and Culex mosquitoes. In2Care will help reduce the Aedes and Culex population over time. However, since Culex species may breed in dirty water areas or large bodies of water, additional treatments are recommended in regions with only Culex mosquitoes.

**Are customers getting bitten, or do they only see mosquitoes or insects flying around?**

This is an important question to ask which will help manage your customer's expectations. Male mosquitoes or other flying insects will not bite. The adulticide in the In2Care Station will slowly kill the female mosquitoes within 9 days. This slow kill allows the mosquito to keep visiting other breeding sites and spread the larvicide, effectively controlling the next generation of mosquitoes. During these 9 days the mosquito will feel "sick" because of the fungus infection, which prevents her from biting.

**What other control methods are you using besides In2Care?**

For an integrated approach we advise to use In2Care in combination with a good quality micro-encapsulated pyrethroid. Also the use of most other insecticide sprays are not an issue when used as a misting barrier.

**Are you using a repellent?**

When using repellents such as garlic or botanical oils, it is advised to do the repellent application first, before installation In2Care Stations. You can also cover the In2Care Stations prior to application. If repellent treatments get on the Station they may keep the female mosquito from visiting. When mosquitoes are not visiting the Stations, the product is not functioning effectively.

**Was there rain after a period of drought?**

Heavy rains, or rains after a period of drought can trigger three main events that can lead to increased mosquito nuisance for your customer. First, they can initiate a resurgence of mosquitoes from newly formed breeding sites. Dormant eggs usually hatch and develop into adult mosquitoes in about a week. The In2Care Stations prevent major peaks in mosquito resurgence, especially when installed for longer periods of time around the same property. Second, heavy rains are conducive to floodwater mosquitoes thriving. Floodwater mosquitoes typically fly further and quickly build up their population. In2Care will not control these type of mosquitoes. Finally, it can contribute to an Aedes/Culex "bloom" that can overwhelm any control procedure. In such case, a residual misting barrier can knock down the population until In2Care can build back up the required larvicide levels in the (new) mosquito breeding sites. It is crucial to inform your customer that In2Care will need a little time to knock the population down again.

### **When opening the Station, is the gauze dry and undisturbed?**

It is important to make sure the gauze remains dry and undisturbed for optimal efficacy. Therefore, when visiting a customer it is essential to open the Station lid to check the water level, and the gauze condition. The gauze may have gotten wet or disturbed by an animal such as a raccoon. Placing In2Care Stations near sprinklers that throw water horizontally may wet the gauze on the floater, washing off the active ingredients. Your customer may have moved or 'inspected' the unit, causing the gauze to get wet. Replace with a new gauze and active ingredient when gauze is wet or not in good condition anymore.

### **Why do some gauzes look more white than others when removed from the sachet?**

There are millions of particles on every In2Care gauze. Even on those that appear darker than average, there are still more than enough particles to infect and control hundreds of mosquitoes. To maximize the amount of "dust" active ingredient on the electrostatic gauze, remember to shake the sachet well before opening. A well powdered gauze will optimize dissemination of the larvicide to surrounding breeding sites. It takes very little remaining dust in the sachet to be emptied into the Station water to be 100% effective. If the gauze is entirely black and lacks active ingredient dust, please make a picture, note the Lot number on the sachet, and contact your rep for replacement.

### **When opening the sachet, does fine dust fall off the gauze?**

When a bit of fine dust falls off the gauze when opening the sachet it is a good sign. It confirms that the active ingredient dust has not gotten too hot and remains effective. If no dust falls off the gauze when removing it from the sachet or no dust is on your gloves when handling the gauze, check for clumps of product on the gauze or in the bottom of the sachet. If you find plaquettes in the bottom of the sachet or clumps are present instead of fine dust, do not use the sachet, as you will not get the transfer effect that is so important for control.

Also see the video: [https://www.in2care.org/marketing/files/In2Care\\_HANDLING\\_STORAGE\\_FINAL.mp4](https://www.in2care.org/marketing/files/In2Care_HANDLING_STORAGE_FINAL.mp4)

### **How do you store your sachets long term and in your service vehicle?**

Store sachets in an air-conditioned room or a refrigerator for long term storage. Avoid placement in direct sunlight, and keep the sachets below 110 degrees Fahrenheit. To avoid overheating during transport in your service vehicle, a cooler bag with a freeze pack or a thermal cooler box is highly recommended. After installation of the gauze in the Station, the microclimate of evaporating water will keep the powder cool enough, even in areas that get temperatures above 110 degrees Fahrenheit.

### **Have you managed the customer's expectation of how quickly and efficiently In2Care can work?**

Nothing kills 100% of a mosquito population. Mosquito populations fluctuate, and peaks can be expected, especially following heavy rains or rains after a period of drought. Established In2Care Stations do an excellent job controlling mosquitos in a greener, sustainable way. However, when mosquito populations peak, it may be necessary to do a 'booster' spray. Or inform your customer that this can happen following rains, but that the In2Care Stations will continue to work reducing the mosquito population.