

Biomagnification is a process by which a chemical substance becomes more concentrated at each trophic level. DDT is a pesticide that was introduced into the environment to kill insect pests. It was not known at the time that DDT would not break down and would persist for decades in the environment. It entered the water supply and was ingested by microscopic organisms. These were eaten by small fish, which in turn were ingested by larger fish. DDT was magnified in the fatty tissue of the fish. As the fish were eaten by birds, the magnification increased. The decline of predator birds was caused by DDT interfering with the production of the hard shells on the bird's eggs.

Malaria and DDT: For and Against the banning of DDT

For Banning DDT (anti-DDT)

<p><u>Ecologist</u> Ecological effects are well documented..... Effects of accumulation in human tissue unknown Spraying DDT has disastrous effects on other invertebrates and biodiversity This will have effects further up the food chain including humans</p>	<p><u>Scientist</u> Alternative methods of pest control exist e.g; other insecticides Spraying cannot eradicate all the mosquitoes. Some will survive... it only takes one</p>
<p><u>Doctor</u> Link between DDT and premature births Low birth weight Abnormal infant mental development</p>	<p><u>Health worker</u> Instead of DDT treated insect nets could be used Draining of local swamps to reduce breeding grounds Cover up at night.</p>

Against banning DDT (Pro DDT)

<p><u>Zambian Villager</u> Both his 2 children have died of malaria. His wife is very ill with the disease He has no one to harvest his crops and he and his family will die of starvation if not malaria Who is more important humans or a few invertebrates</p>	<p><u>Scientist</u> WHO state that DDT is safe if used properly No evidence of ill effects on humans The alternatives are not effective. DDT significantly reduces deaths from Malaria. Malaria was wiped out from Italy last century with the help of DDT</p>
<p><u>Government Official</u> When DDT was banned last time deaths from Malaria rose. My country is crippled by millions of people dying from the disease Its economic output is reduced People remain in poverty</p>	<p><u>WHO official</u> Malaria kills 1 million people every year There are 240 million cases every year Alternatives to DDT are more harmful to the environment Its better to stick with what we know and save lives</p>