

If you live in Florida or anywhere warm and buggy, this question comes up fast: is a 20x20 screen worth it, or is it just another upgrade that sounds better than it performs?

The short answer is yes, a 20x20 screen does keep bugs out of your lanai more effectively than standard screen in many situations. It is especially helpful with smaller insects such as no-see-ums, tiny gnats, and the little biting pests that seem to float right through older mesh. But like most things with lanai rescreening, the full answer depends on where you live, how much airflow you want, how old your enclosure is, and whether the rest of the structure is in good shape.

I have seen plenty of homeowners spend money on stronger or tighter mesh and still complain about bugs a week later. Usually the problem is not the screen material alone. It is a torn spline, a gap at the kick plate, loose framing, or an old door that no longer closes tightly. So while 20x20 can absolutely improve bug control, it works best when the whole lanai is sealed and rescreened properly.

ALL SCREENING OF SWFL
1802 SW 12TH TERRACE
CAPE CORAL, FL 33991



HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO SCREEN IN A SMALL LANAI IN CAPE CORAL? ALL SCREENING OF SWFL HAS THE ANSWER

 [HTTPS://ALLSCREENINGOFSWFL.COM/LANAI-SCREEN-REPAIR/](https://allscreeningofswfl.com/lanai-screen-repair/)  **(239) 692-4041**

What 20x20 screen actually means

The “20x20” refers to the mesh count, usually 20 openings per inch horizontally and 20 openings per inch vertically. That gives you a tighter weave than a common 18x14 pool or patio screen. Smaller openings mean smaller insects have a harder time getting through.

That sounds simple, but the trade-off matters. When you tighten the mesh, you also restrict airflow a bit more and slightly reduce openness. If you are used to a breezy patio screen, a 20x20 screen can feel a little denser, especially on humid days. Most homeowners notice the bug reduction more than the airflow change, but the difference is real.

In places near marshes, canals, retention ponds, or shaded yards with heavy mosquito pressure, 20x20 often feels like a worthwhile upgrade. In drier areas with fewer tiny insects, standard screen may be perfectly fine and a little more comfortable for airflow.

Why standard screens sometimes disappoint

A lot of lanais are built with standard fiberglass screen that does a decent job against larger insects. Mosquitoes, moths, wasps, and flies are usually blocked if the screen is intact. The trouble starts with the small stuff.

No-see-ums are the classic complaint. Homeowners will say, "My lanai looks perfect, but I still get bitten at dusk." That is often the moment when 20x20 or another finer insect screen starts making sense. Those tiny insects can exploit openings that seem minor to us. If your current enclosure is older, the mesh may also have stretched, become brittle, or loosened enough that the effective protection is worse than when it was installed.

Another issue is patchwork repairs. One or two patched sections may be fine, but once a lanai has been fixed repeatedly over the years, it often ends up with mixed mesh types, weak edges, and little gaps around splines and corners. At that point, a proper rescreen usually performs far better than another quick fix.

Does 20x20 screen keep bugs out effectively?

Most of the time, yes. It is effective enough that many homeowners notice an immediate improvement, particularly in the evening when smaller insects are active. If your main goal is comfort, and you want to sit outside without waving bugs away from your ankles, a tighter screen can make the space much more usable.

Still, "effective" is not the same as "perfect." Bugs can enter through screen doors left open too long, tears near the bottom panels, gaps around the frame, roofline openings, pet doors, or even utility penetrations. I have seen beautiful brand-new mesh installed on every wall panel, only for insects to pour in through a misaligned door closer.

That is why I usually tell people to think of 20x20 as part of a system. It helps a lot, but it cannot compensate for structural problems.

When 20x20 is worth the money

The best candidates for 20x20 screen are homeowners who know they have a fine-insect problem, not just a general bug problem. If your lanai is near water, dense landscaping, or low-lying humid areas, you are more likely to benefit.

It is also worth considering if you already plan on lanai rescreening. Upgrading mesh during a full rescreen is often more sensible than replacing standard screen now and finer mesh later. Labor is a big part of the total, so doing it once can save frustration and avoid paying twice.

Here is where 20x20 tends to make the most sense:

- you get no-see-ums or tiny biting gnats, especially at dawn or dusk
- your current screen is due for replacement anyway
- your lanai is more about lounging and dining than maximizing airflow
- you live near water or in a bug-heavy part of Florida
- you want a cleaner, more enclosed feel without going to glass or acrylic panels

If you mainly battle larger mosquitoes and your current mesh is intact, standard screen may be enough. In that case, the better investment may be repairing damage and making sure the door seals tightly.

The trade-offs nobody mentions enough

Every screening option solves one problem while creating a smaller one somewhere else. With 20x20, the usual trade-offs are airflow, visibility, and debris retention.

Airflow reduction is the first concern people notice in theory, though not always in practice. On a breezy lot, the difference may be minor. On a still, humid lot, tighter mesh can make the air feel a bit heavier. If your lanai already faces west and traps heat in the afternoon, that may matter more to you than it would to someone with a shaded enclosure.

Visibility changes too, though this depends on the screen color and your sensitivity. Darker screen often disappears visually better than bright aluminum or faded gray. A tighter mesh can create a slightly more screened-in appearance, but many people stop noticing it after a few days.

Then there is maintenance. Fine mesh can hold pollen, dust, and mildew a little more readily. It is not dramatic, but if you are in a high-pollen area, you may need to rinse or clean the panels more often to keep the lanai looking crisp.

How long do lanai screens last in Florida?

This is one of the most common questions, and there is no single lifespan that fits every enclosure. In Florida, many lanai screens last around 8 to 15 years, sometimes less on harsh exposures and sometimes longer in protected spots. Sun, salt air, storms, lawn equipment, pets, and tree limbs all shorten that timeline.

A screened panel can fail long before the entire lanai needs replacement. One ripped section near a door might happen in year three because a chair corner hit it. A full lanai rescreen may not be necessary until years later when the mesh becomes brittle, faded, or loose across multiple panels.

If you are trying to judge whether to repair or replace, run your hand lightly near the edge of an older panel. If the material feels dry, papery, or fragile, patching one spot might buy very little time. That is usually when people start asking, "Is it worth fixing a broken screen?" Sometimes yes. Sometimes the repair is just postponing the obvious.

Is it worth fixing a broken screen?

If the damage is isolated, the frame is solid, and the surrounding screen is still in good condition, yes, fixing a broken screen is often worth it. A single torn panel is usually cheaper and faster to repair than replacing everything.

If the lanai has multiple holes, sun-baked mesh, loose spline, or visible sagging, a full rescreen is often the smarter move. I have seen homeowners pay for four or five separate service calls over a year, only to spend more than they would have on a coordinated rescreening job.

Tiny damage deserves special mention. People often ask, "Does screen repair tape actually work?" It can, for a while. It is a decent temporary fix for a small hole in a low-stress area. It is not my favorite long-term repair for a visible wall panel, especially on an exposed lanai. Heat, humidity, and pressure washing tend to reveal the limits of repair tape fairly quickly.

How do I repair a hole in my lanai screen?

For a tiny puncture, a patch or screen repair tape may hold well enough until you schedule a proper repair. For anything larger, replacing the entire panel usually looks better and lasts longer. That is true whether you are dealing with standard patio screen or 20x20 mesh.

If you are asking how to replace screen porch mesh or how do I rescreen my lanai, the basic process is straightforward, but the details matter. The screen must be cut correctly, tensioned evenly, and rolled into the frame with the proper spline size. Too loose and it sags. Too tight and the corners can distort or the mesh can tear under stress.

A simple do it yourself rescreening job usually follows this basic path:

1. Remove the old spline and pull out the damaged screen
2. Clean the frame channel and inspect for cracks or corrosion
3. Lay the new screen over the opening with a few inches of excess on all sides
4. Roll in fresh spline while keeping even tension across the panel
5. Trim the excess mesh carefully with a sharp utility blade

That sounds easy on paper, and for one small panel it often is. A whole lanai is another story. Tall panels, ladder work, oversized sections, and screen doors separate the weekend DIY project from the professional job pretty quickly.

Do it yourself rescreening, when it makes sense and when it doesn't

I am not against DIY at all. For one torn panel on a reachable wall, a careful homeowner can often do a respectable job. If you enjoy hands-on work, the savings can be real. Material cost is not terrible, and you can buy screen, spline, and tools at most hardware stores or home centers.

But DIY becomes less attractive when the enclosure is large, high, or aging. Tensioning a wide panel evenly takes practice. The wrong spline size can ruin an afternoon. If the frame is bent or the old spline channel is damaged, simply replacing mesh will not solve the problem. People often ask, "Does ACE hardware do rescreening?" or "How much does Home Depot charge to repair screens?" Most big retail stores sell materials and may offer referrals or limited repair services through local contractors, but they are not usually the same as hiring a dedicated lanai screen company that does full enclosures every week.

For that reason, I tell homeowners to divide the job mentally. One panel or a basic screen door insert can be a DIY project. Full lanai rescreening is often best left to a crew with ladders, rollers, inventory, and the speed that comes from repetition.

What does it usually cost to fix a screen?

"How much does it usually cost to fix a screen?" depends on whether you mean a window screen, a porch panel, a door insert, or a large lanai section. For a single lanai panel repair, homeowners often see a service-call minimum plus material. That can put a modest repair somewhere in the rough range of about \$75 to \$200 or more, depending on panel size, mesh type, location, and whether the contractor has to match existing material.

If the screen is high up, custom-sized, or part of a difficult door assembly, cost goes up. If several adjacent panels are damaged, the per-panel price may become more favorable because the crew is already on site.

When people ask, “How much does it cost to repair a lanai screen?” I usually encourage them to think in terms of job size, not just hole size. [emergency lanai screen repair](#) A tiny tear on the second-story exterior side is not really a tiny repair.

How much does it cost to replace a lanai screen or rescreen a full lanai?

A full answer requires measurements, mesh choice, access, and local labor rates. Still, some general ranges help. In Florida, a full lanai rescreen can run from a few hundred dollars for a very small enclosure to several thousand for a large or complex one. Many standard projects land somewhere in the broad range of roughly \$1,200 to \$4,000, with upscale materials or oversized enclosures going beyond that.

If you are wondering, “How much does it cost to rescreen a lanai in Florida?” the state’s weather and screening culture actually create a wide market. Prices vary by region, season, aluminum condition, permit needs, and whether you are simply replacing mesh or also addressing door hardware and framing.

A small enclosure naturally costs less. “How much to screen in a small lanai?” could be under \$1,000 in some cases, though very small jobs sometimes feel disproportionately expensive because of minimum labor and trip charges. On the other end, “What’s the average cost to rescreen a porch?” often overlaps with lanai pricing, but porch costs can differ if the structure is lower, simpler, or uses different framing and access.

Material choices beyond 20x20

Not every homeowner should jump straight to 20x20. The right choice depends on what bothers you most. Some want better insect control. Others want durability against pets, storm debris, or children pushing against lower panels.

A few common screen types are worth understanding:

- standard fiberglass, common and budget-friendly, good general use
- 20x20 or no-see-um mesh, better against tiny insects, slightly less airflow
- pet-resistant screen, stronger and thicker, but more visible and heavier
- solar or privacy screen, reduces glare and visibility, changes the feel of the space
- aluminum screen, less common for many lanais now, but still used in some situations

In real life, homeowners sometimes mix priorities. For example, lower panels near dogs might get pet screen while upper sections use finer insect mesh. That can work, though uniform appearance matters to some people more than others.

How much does Home Depot charge to repair screens, and what about ACE?

Questions like “Does ACE hardware do rescreening?” and “How much does Home Depot charge to repair screens?” come up because people assume the big retailers handle everything. What they usually do well is sell supplies, tools, and replacement kits. Some locations may offer or coordinate repair services through local providers, but this varies a lot by store and market.

If you need one window screen repaired, a retail option may be convenient. If you need a lanai rescreen, especially with 20x20 mesh, you are usually better served by a company that specializes in screened enclosures.

They understand spline sizes, panel tension, local weather exposure, and the small installation details that affect whether bugs actually stay out.

Signs your lanai needs more than a patch

Sometimes the question is not whether 20x20 keeps bugs out. The real issue is whether your enclosure is too far gone for minor repairs. A few signs usually point toward full rescreening:

The screen has faded unevenly and looks brittle when pressed. Several panels are loose, not just one. The door drags, does not latch cleanly, or leaves visible light gaps around the edges. Splines are shrinking or popping in corners. Multiple old patches make the enclosure look pieced together.

At that point, replacing one panel may restore appearance in only one spot while the rest of the lanai continues to fail. That is when a full quote starts to make more sense than another repair estimate.

So, is a 20x20 screen worth it?

For many Florida lanais, yes. If tiny insects are ruining the space, 20x20 is one of the most practical upgrades you can make during lanai rescreening. It is not a miracle fabric, and it will not fix poor doors or failing frames, but when installed correctly on a sound enclosure, it does a noticeably better job of keeping out small pests.

The key is matching the screen to the problem. If your main issue is no-see-ums, choose finer mesh. If your issue is durability, choose stronger mesh. If your current enclosure is old and failing in several places, stop thinking panel-by-panel and start looking at the whole system.

A lanai should feel easy to use. You should be able to sit outside after dinner, hear the yard, catch a little breeze, and not spend the evening swatting at your legs. If a tighter screen gets you there, it is usually money well spent.