

Flies

Information and control advice



House flies and Blue Bottle flies:

Everybody experiences flies in their homes at some time or another. Although they do have the potential to spread germs and diseases, there should be no problems encountered if good hygiene standards are maintained and foodstuffs are not freely available to them.

It is only when they appear in large numbers that they can become cause for concern, and this is usually the case for one of two reasons: Either there is infested food matter somewhere nearby, or there is the carcass of a dead animal in which the flies have laid their eggs.

Control:

The main method of control is to find and remove the cause of the problem- Infested food should be quite easy to find and remove. A dead animal however cannot always be found. Good places to check are lofts (for birds, squirrels etc), behind old fireplaces, under floor boards and behind bath panels, kitchen appliances and cupboards.

Whether the cause is found or not, the use of insecticides is recommended. A flying insect spray can be used to treat the affected room generally. For areas where the cause is found, a powder or a crawling insect spray can be used. Other means of treatment include traps, which can be hung up, solid block insecticides in plastic vented containers and ultra violet electric killers.

ALWAYS FOLLOW THE MANUFACTURERS INSTRUCTIONS ON THE PACKAGING.

Fruit flies:

These flies are not very common in the home but where they do occur, it is usually due to fermenting fruit or old vegetables attracting them. They are a problem because they also feed on faeces etc. before landing on clean surfaces & foodstuffs.

Control:

This can be achieved by removing the foods attracting them and treating for flies as described above.

Sewer or drain flies:

These, as the name suggests, are closely associated with water. They lay their eggs in the sludge left as water evaporates. In the summer, infestations can occur in areas such as puddles on flat roofs and blocked outlet drains or gutters, and from these areas the flies can migrate indoors.

If the infestation is only indoors, sources of standing water should be checked (i.e. plant pots). Be aware that a 'pool' of water is not even necessary for these flies to successfully lay eggs. Something as small as a little trickle of water from a pipe joint (for example when the toilet is flushed) can cause this problem, therefore all plumbing should be inspected.

Control:

This can be achieved by denying the flies their source of water and then treating for flies, as described above.