

## Pest Tip of the Month



# Filth Flies



### Risk

Flies threaten the health and comfort of your customers, spread bacteria, and damage your reputation. They carry disease organisms and contaminate food. They are highly mobile and easily spread throughout your facility, often times swarming in areas visible to customers. Flies are prolific breeders, capable of existing in a wide range of environmental and climatic conditions, and they can be difficult to eliminate if the problem is not solved at the source.



### Interesting Facts

Many types of large flies that can be found in commercial facilities. Large flies include House flies, Blow flies and Cluster flies. In general, larger flies ( $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch or greater) originate outdoors and migrate in. Large flies can originate indoors if sanitation is poor or there is a dead animal inside. Dumpster areas, grease traps and trash receptacles are other common sources of fly activity.



The Lesser House fly is the fly,  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{3}{8}$  of an inch long, that hovers in doorways, over food prep areas or in the middle of rooms. Lesser House flies breed outdoors in garbage or animal excrement as well as indoors near sewage or decomposing materials.

### Prevention

- The tasty aroma of food easily attracts flies. You can make a world of difference by using window or door screens. Do not prop open doors. Try a good screen door to let the air in and keep flies out.
- Keep flies from entering by installing an air door or point a fan so it blows out the door or window.
- Use insect light traps as a chemical-free way of capturing flies inside your facility.
- Flies are proficient at exploiting temporary resources - spills, trash receptacles, dirty floors or a dead mouse can quickly become a food source for flies. Dumpsters and dumpster pads are another common source. Maintaining a clean facility and addressing all sanitation issues can prevent flies from becoming a problem.



# SPRAGUE<sup>SM</sup>