

Pest Tip of the Month



Small Flies



There are many types of flies that can be found in commercial facilities. Small flies consist of Small Fruit Flies, Phorid flies, and Drain 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.



Since small flies usually originate indoors, it is critical to find the breeding source. Look in drains, mop storage, wet/dry vacuums, under equipment or any other wet areas.



With food and water present, it is usually only a matter of time before flies will appear.

Prevention

- Sanitation and maintenance of key areas will help to prevent fly activity.
- Fans can often be used to keep these small flies from landing on food or hovering in sensitive areas.
- Flies are proficient at exploiting temporary resources - spills, trash receptacles, dirty floors or a dead mouse can quickly become a food source for flies. Maintaining a clean facility and addressing all sanitation issues can prevent flies from becoming a problem.
- Controlling flies requires a combination of efforts, called “stacking the effects”, that typically includes sanitation control, water control, exclusion and treatments that target the source of activity.

Common Sources of Fly Activity

- Drains
- Hoses, guns for drain beer taps, espresso machines, or soda dispensers
- In-floor drains/sinks
- Hidden drains in cabinets
- Voids under or behind cabinets
- Broken floor tiles and grout
- Inside dishwasher, catch basket frame
- Inside garbage disposals
- Garbage cans
- Old, wet pallets
- Onions, tomatoes, potatoes, and bananas are particularly attractive to flies
- Wet paper boxes sitting on floors
- Under equipment and damaged base molding or walls
- Inside dirty wet/dry shop vacuums
- In dustpans, mops, and wet brooms
- Dumpster in proximity to any open doors or windows.
- Sinks and mop tubs that are not properly sealed.

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