

Housefly Control

Advice to Householders



■ Housefly Control

Houseflies have one pair of membranous wings and their hind wings are modified as halteres (Club shaped balancing organs). They have sucking mouthparts, which can be either piercing or non-piercing, large compound eyes and tarsi (segmented sections like feet on the ends of their legs).

The common housefly adults are 6-8mm long with a wingspan of 13-15mm, a grey thorax (part of the body between the head and the abdomen), with 4 longitudinal dark stripes.

The lesser housefly adult is 6mm long with a wing span of 12mm, a grey thorax and three longitudinal stripes which are less pronounced than those of the common housefly.

Common Housefly ▼



Lesser Housefly ▼



Common houseflies flit about from place to place with a flight range of at least 8km (5 miles). They are highly active indoors. IN colder climates, breeding usually ceases before the winter, however in warmer environments they will remain active and breed throughout the year.

Lesser houseflies are frequently encountered around poultry houses. They have erratic flight patterns and are often seen flying around light fitting in large numbers. The lesser housefly is more tolerant of cooler conditions than the common housefly.

Houseflies can transmit intestinal worms and /or their eggs and are

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Flies liquefy food by regurgitating digestive juices and their stomach contents on the food substance. This liquid is then drawn up by the sucking mouthparts and in so doing the insects pick up pathogenic (harmful) organisms, which may collect on their bodies, to be transferred on contact with other surfaces, or survive being passed through the gut to be deposited as fly spotting. Fly spotting is produced when the fly feeds or defecates.

HYGIENE MANAGEMENT

Good housekeeping is essential to limit the number of breeding sites.

DOMESTIC REFUSE

This must be stored in sealed bins for early removal to disposal sites. Food waste should be sealed in bags at all times. Refuse tips should be covered with earth to a depth of 9" and then compacted, compost heaps should be covered or in purpose built containers. This will minimise larvae emergence and promote fermentation temperatures at which the larvae cannot survive.

FARM MANURE

This should be kept as dry as possible, especially in poultry houses where leaking water feeders can provide ideal, moist breeding conditions. The biothermic method of storing dung involves compacting manure into a cuboid stack, which promotes uniform, persistent fermentation throughout the dung, which is lethal to the larvae. The entry of adult flies into the building can be prevented with the use of fly screens, air curtains, bead curtains or self-closing doors fitted with rubber flaps.

PHYSICAL CONTROL

Maggot traps can be used and these take advantage of the fact that the larvae need to migrate from breeding sites to cooler surroundings

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INSECTICIDAL CONTROL

In order to obtain the best results, insecticidal control measures should be integrated with good hygiene practices.

Other information leaflets available:

- ▶ Carpet, Museum & Fur Beetle Control
- ▶ Furniture Beetle (Woodworm) & Wharf Borer Control
- ▶ Cockroach Control
- ▶ Larder Beetle Control
- ▶ Spider Beetle Control
- ▶ Flea Control
- ▶ Biscuit Beetle Control
- ▶ Silverfish, Earwig, woodlouse & Slug Control
- ▶ Psocid (Booklouse) Control
- ▶ Seagull Control
- ▶ Pest Control Advice
- ▶ Rodent Control

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