

Not All Flies are the Same

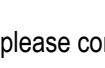
Not all flies are the same & treating them like they are is where most control strategies fail. Each type of fly is strongly linked to a specific habitat and food source. From drains and garbage to compost, livestock and even indoor walls - every infestation is a clue.

For example:

- Fruit flies = fermentation & overripe produce
- Drain / sewer flies = moisture & organic buildup
 - Blow & flesh flies = decaying matter
 - Fungus gnats = damp soil & plants
- Stable flies = livestock & animal areas

Effective pest management isn't about spraying more - it's about understanding ecology, breaking the life cycle and removing the source. Right identification → Right habitat control → Long-term results

Types of Flies

Type of Fly	Appearance	Where Found / Habitat	Commonly Found In	Why They Are There / What They Feed On
House Fly (<i>Musca domestica</i>)	 • Gray color • 4 dark stripes on thorax • Sponging mouthparts	 • Near human habitation • Warm places • Around waste & decay	 • Garbage • Food areas • Decaying matter • Kitchens	 Attracted to food, garbage, and decaying organic matter. Feeds on almost anything.
Blow Fly (<i>Calliphoridae</i>)	 • Metallic green/blue color • Large build • Spongy-like mouthparts	 • Outdoors • Warm, sunny areas • Around dead animals	 • Decaying flesh • Animal carcasses • Garbage • Wound sites	 Lay eggs on carrion or wounds. Maggots feed on dead/decaying material.
Fruit Fly (<i>Drosophila</i> spp.)	 • Small, light brown • Red eyes • Rounded wings	 • Indoors • Warm, humid places • Around fermenting substances	 • Overripe fruits • Fruit baskets • Juices • Bottles, cans	 Attracted to fermenting fruits, juices, wine. Feeds on yeast and sugars.
Drain Fly (<i>Psychodidae</i>)	 • Small, fuzzy • Moth-like wings • Heart-shaped wings at rest	 • Moist, damp areas • In and around drains & sewers	 • Drains • Sinks • Sewage pipes • Septic tanks	 Breeds in organic film (biofilm) in drains. Feeds on microorganisms in the slime.
Phorid Fly (<i>Phoridae</i>)	 • Very small (1-3 mm) • Hump-backed • Often runs fast	 • Decaying organic material • Soil, compost, manure	 • Compost • Decaying plants • Manure • Mushroom beds	 Feeds and lays eggs in decaying organic matter, fungi, and microorganisms.
Cheese Skipper (<i>Piophilidae</i>)	 • Small, hump-backed • Black with yellow legs • Skips or runs	 • Indoors • Around dairy or fermenting products	 • Cheese • Dairy products • Meat products • Fermenting food	 Feeds on protein-rich, fermenting substances. Larvae develop in these foods.
Fungus Gnat (<i>Sciaridae</i>)	 • Small, black • Long legs • Delicate wings • Antenna long	 • Moist soil • Greenhouses • Potted plants	 • Potted plants • Greenhouses • Damp soil • Nurseries	 Larvae feed on fungi and organic matter in moist soil and roots.
Latrine Fly (<i>Fannia</i> spp.)	 • Dark gray/black • Checkered abdomen • Similar to house fly	 • Dirty, unsanitary places • Human/animal waste areas	 • Latrines • Sewers • Garbage • Septic areas	 Breeds in organic waste, feces, and decaying material.
Vinegar Fly (<i>Drosophila</i> spp.)	 • Small, dark • Red eyes • Similar to fruit fly	 • Around fermented liquids • Indoors	 • Vinegar • Wine • Beer • Fermented liquids	 Attracted to acetic acid and fermenting liquids. Feeds on yeast.
Sewer Fly (<i>Psychodidae</i>)	 • Small, fuzzy • Moth-like • Wings hairy	 • Sewers • Drainage systems • Moist environments	 • Sewers • Utility tunnels • Drainage systems • Septic tanks	 Breed in sludge and organic film. Feed on bacteria and decaying organic matter.
Flesh Fly (<i>Sarcophagidae</i>)	 • Gray with dark stripes • Large, robust • Live-bearing (viviparous)	 • Outdoors • Around dead animals • Human/animal waste	 • Dead animals • Raw meat • Garbage • Wounds	 Females lay live larvae on flesh. Larvae feed on decaying tissue.
Cluster Fly (<i>Pollenia</i> spp.)	 • Dark gray/black • Checkered abdomen • Slow mover	 • Indoors (in large numbers) • Sunny walls	 • Attics • Wall voids • Windows • Corners	 Seek shelter in buildings in cold weather. Feed on organic residues.
Stable Fly (<i>Stomoxys calcitrans</i>)	 • Brownish • Piercing mouthparts • Bites animals	 • Near livestock • Outdoors • Moist, muddy areas	 • Stables • Barns • Cattle • Animal shelters	 Bites animals and humans. Feeds on blood and body fluids.
Scuttle Fly (<i>Megaselia scalaris</i>)	 • Very small (1-2 mm) • Yellowish-brown • Hump-backed	 • Moist organic matter • Greenhouses	 • Mushrooms • Compost • Decaying plants • Greenhouses	 Larvae feed on fungi, yeast, and decaying organic matter.
Soldier Fly (<i>Stratiomyidae</i>)	 • Dark, robust • Long body • Strong flyer	 • Outdoors • Compost piles • Wet organic waste	 • Compost • Manure • Plant waste • Garbage	 Larvae (black soldier fly larvae) consume organic waste and recycle nutrients.
Hover Fly (<i>Syrphidae</i>)	 • Yellow & black patterns • Hover in air • Mimic wasps	 • Gardens • Fields • Near flowers	 • Flowers • Gardens • Crops • Plants	 Adults feed on nectar and pollen. Larvae feed on aphids and small insects.

 Understanding the type of fly and its habitat helps in effective control and prevention. Sanitation, waste management, and source reduction are the key!

Should you have any further questions, please contact Shire's Environmental Health Officer, via email

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