Large Flies: Prevention Tips

Large flies, sometimes called filth flies, are capable of carrying and spreading potentially harmful pathogens. This can endanger the health of your employees and customers. While some issues may require professional intervention, you can help deter fly infestations with these helpful tips.

Where you might see them

- Large flies breed primarily outdoors in decaying or rotting materials, such as food, trash, animal carcasses, and feces. Indoor breeding sites are uncommon and usually detected by rancid odors.
- Large flies prefer warm, moist areas for breeding. Facilities with humid areas may be more susceptible to fly activity.

What you can do to help

- Make note of any areas where you frequently see large flies. This will alert your pest control provider of potential hotspots.

Tips for prevention

- Close unscreened doors and windows when not in use.
- Ensure doors and windows are screened and have no fewer than 18 squares per inch so pests cannot get through.
- To deter flying insect entry, ensure there is positive airflow at all entrance and exit doors, receiving doors, etc.
- Seal openings around pipes, cables, and wires that enter from the exterior of your facility. Use caulk, screening, and steel wool to seal these gaps.
- Install weather stripping and door sweeps on exterior doors if doors do not seal flush to a floor or frame.
- Close outside garbage receptacles. Keep garbage cans and dumpsters tightly covered and, ideally, located away from the building. Inside, use receptacles with lids.
- Remove garbage regularly since flies are attracted to odor. Have garbage picked up a minimum of twice weekly, especially in warm weather.
- Wash entryways, dumpsters, dumpster pads, and other odorous locations daily with a bleach and water solution. Give extra attention to areas leading into kitchens, such as floor mats.
- Use a dehumidifier to reduce humidity and a fan to circulate air.

ID and biology

- Adults are approximately 1/4-inch long.
- Common large flies include the house fly and bottle fly.
- The house fly will lay eggs on moist, warm organic material.
- The bottle fly will lay eggs on freshly killed animals and meat.
- Fly eggs can hatch within 24 hours.
- Fly larvae are called maggots. They are pale and worm-like.
- Under ideal conditions a fly can complete a life cycle in 7 to 10 days.
- A female fly can lay between 300 and 2,300 eggs in just one month.

Call 866.913.5072 for a FREE consultation or contact us online at flapest.com

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FPCLGFLYTS Rev 02.25