



## Small Flies: Prevention Tips

The presence of small flies, sometimes referred to as nuisance flies, often signals a sanitation issue. To prevent small flies, institute a thorough cleaning and sanitation program, and follow these tips from our experts.

### Where you might see them

- Small flies often breed inside in very localized areas.
- Any areas where organic matter builds up can become attractive to small flies: missing grout, cracks in the floor, and crevices along the walls.
- Many small flies are attracted to sweet, fermenting odors such as those areas around soda stations, beer taps, or produce.
- Hosing down areas can force organic material under edges, behind equipment, and into cracks and crevices. These hidden areas become prime breeding grounds for small flies.
- Any areas that contain water or excess moisture such as bathrooms, sinks, and drains can attract small flies.

### What you can do to help

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

### Tips for prevention

- Set up a regular cleaning schedule for drains, and target those that serve equipment, such as fountain beverage machines, for weekly cleaning.
- Clean drip trays of fountain beverage machines daily to eliminate build up that attracts fruit flies.
- Thoroughly clean all equipment, server stations, tables, and floors in the kitchen and bar area daily.
- Make sure all tiles are in place and grout is intact. Missing tiles or worn grout can harbor organic debris and become a breeding site for small flies.
- Hang mop upside down and flip the mop bucket after use to ensure they dry properly.
- Routinely clean under cooking equipment and prep lines to remove debris.
- Eliminate standing water using mops or floor drying fans.
- Discard any decaying produce and food daily.



### ID and biology

- Common species of small flies include fruit fly, phorid fly, moth fly, sphaerocerid fly, fungus gnat, and cheese skipper.
- Although small, they are still visible to the naked eye.
- Adult small flies can range in size from  $\frac{1}{13}$ - to  $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch.
- Small fly species prefer breeding in moist, decaying organic matter.
- Fruit flies can complete a life cycle in 7 to 20 days.

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