



# Large Flies: Prevention Tips

Flies can spread harmful diseases and bacteria, endangering the health of your employees, customers, and consumers. While some fly issues may require professional intervention, you can help prevent fly infestations with these helpful tips from our experts.

## 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 odours.
- 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 using 18 x 16 squares per 6.45 cm<sup>2</sup> mesh 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 odour. 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 6.4 mm 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 will 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 2300 eggs in just one month.

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