

FRUIT FLIES: SANITATION & EXCLUSION

The following is a guide on what you can do to eliminate fruit flies

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE

- The first step in order to get rid of Fruit Flies in the kitchen or elsewhere is to have proper sanitation. It is critical to eliminate any breeding sources.
- Clean garbage cans and dumpsters. They should have tight lids.
- Ripened fruit should be eaten or refrigerated.
- Get rid of any extra moisture with proper drainage.
- Use screens on building openings.
- Re-grout tiles in bathrooms and kitchens; this will prevent any water leakage in the walls and possible fruit fly breeding sources.

INFORMATION

Look first for fruit fly sources in areas where vegetables or fruits are stored outside refrigeration. Also look for fruit fly sources in garbage cans, under appliances, and recycling bins. Even a little spilled juice behind an appliance can contribute to their breeding. When searching for fruit fly breeding sources, remember that the larva can only survive in decaying organic matter that is moist. All stages of a fruit fly infestations depend on organic debris to complete the fruit fly cycle. Whenever possible, food and materials on which fruit flies can lay their eggs must be removed.

Killing adult fruit flies will reduce infestation, but elimination of fruit fly breeding areas is necessary for good management.

Fruit Flies are not the only small fly that you may see in your kitchen area. If you see a small type of fly or gnat type of fly, it may not be coming from the drains. They could be coming from various sources like rotten fruit, garbage, or other damp organic matter. Also, Fruit Fly Traps would not work for other small flies such as Drain Flies, Phorid Flies, or Sphaerocerid Flies.

Pesticide treatments are not the best long-term solution. Although insecticides can kill adult fruit flies, they do not kill the eggs. Thorough cleaning and removal of their breeding source are the key to breaking the life cycle and eliminating a fruit fly infestation.