



Fruit Fly (*Drosophila melanogaster*)



Phorid Fly (*Phoridae*)



Fungus Gnat (*Sciaridae*)



Drain/Moth Fly (*Psychodidae*)

PEST MEMO - SMALL FLIES IN COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

Professional pest management is a vital, integral component in ridding buildings of flying insects however it is not a magic wand. Any successful pest control program involves a cooperative effort with management, staff, vendors and EHS. We must work together to achieve the same goal which is to eliminate pests from the structure.

RULE #1 = SANITATION IS PEST MANAGEMENT! RULE #2 = See rule #1. When most people have a small fly issue in an office or commercial building structure they assume the solution is to have it treated and the problem is solved. In many cases the request is to “fog – bomb - fumigate” and this is old school long outdated terminology that do not remotely fit the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) model embraced today. In fact most small flies issues are caused by sanitation, cultural, or structural issues and they can be fixed organically by the building staff. The role of professional pest management is to positively identify the pest species and pinpoint the potential source(s) so a cooperative approach can be implemented. Remove the source and the flies are eliminated.

Fruit Flies:

Common fruit flies originate from decaying organic matter. With this species look for aged fruit/vegetable/food items, spilled syrupy drinks, dirty waste/recycling receptacles, aged garbage, etc. Simple removal of the sources and good old fashioned elbow grease (cleaning) will eliminate the issue.

Phorid Flies:

All the same areas as mentioned above for Fruit Flies need to be investigated. In addition this species tends to infest more gunky areas like dirty drains, stagnant water, and septic lines. If the activity persists after the easy areas are explored and corrected a more comprehensive investigation may be needed. The source can be a complicated area like a pipe condensation in a wall or a broken-compromised water/sewer pipe. It could very well be a plumbing Vs pest control issue.

Fungus Gnats:

This species feeds on the root system of plants that are not properly maintained. The solution can be found here <http://ehspest.com/FSheets/Fungus-Gnats-in-Potted-Plants.pdf>

Drain/Moth Flies:

This species is commonly found in older Vs newer buildings. In almost every incidence this is a plumbing/facility issue Vs a pest issue. Dry drains (P-Traps) need to be explored first and this is the easiest fix by building staff. Most cases originate from a break-compromise in a water or sewer line so it requires a plumber to camera scope or smoke test the line for pipe deficiencies.



Forward Thinking Pest Control

Environmental Health Services, Inc.
823 Pleasant Street Norwood, MA 02062
Main 781.769.9111 Fax 781.769.1115
Toll Free 888.PEST.MGMT www.ehspest.com