



There are two (2) types of flies that pose a risk to your food operation:

House Flies:

- House flies are attracted to most all food, but particularly things that have a strong aroma: garbage, animal feces, and stagnant water.
- A fly's mouth is like a straw. It lands on the food source, uses saliva or vomit to partially liquefy it, then uses its legs to mix it up so it can be sucked back in via its straw-type mouth to be digested. During this spitting/vomiting, chewing and mashing process, it is transferring harmful bacteria into the food source.
- A fly does not have bladder or bowel control. Because of their large intake of food, they deposit urine and feces constantly, one of the factors that make the insect a dangerous carrier of pathogens.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), each house fly can carry more than 1 million bacteria on its body. Diseases carried by house flies to humans include: *Shigella* spp. (dysentery and shigellosis), *Salmonella* spp. (typhoid fever), *Escherichia coli* (traveler's diarrhea) and *Vibrio cholera* (cholera).



Fruit Flies:

- Fruit flies are primarily nuisance pests, but have the potential to contaminate food.
- Smaller than house flies: adults measure 1/8"- 1/4" long with red eyes.
- Fruit flies lay their eggs near the surface of rotting foods or other moist, decaying products.
- Breeding sites include drains, garbage disposals, empty bottles and cans, trash containers, wet mops, and soiled rags.
- Given the right conditions, a female will lay about 500 eggs. The entire life span from egg to adult can be completed in about one week.



How can I prevent flies?

The best way to avoid problems with flies is to remove sources of attraction.

- Keep trash containers covered.
- Discard cracked, damaged or spoiled portions of fruits and vegetables.
- Windows and doors should be equipped with tight-fitting (16 mesh) screens.
- Keep all exterior entrances closed; avoid propping doors open.
- Clean inside drain pipes to remove all decaying materials. Clean slow moving drains with a stiff brush or other tool. Make sure sides of drains are scrubbed.
- Eliminate sources of food and water. Repair leaky water pipes and wastewater lines.