



COMMAND PEST CONTROL

Information sheet number 33 - The House Fly



Appearance:

6mm long, wingspan of 10mm, grey / black chequered abdomen which is slightly hairy, blackish stripes on thorax, distance between eyes wide in female and narrow in male, vein bends sharply before reaching edge of wing. At rest wings are spread. Larvae are white and opaque and pointed

Breeding:

Up to 150 eggs each 1mm long laid in batches at a time in the selected foodstuffs and larvae starts putrefaction that is spread by the adults with bacteria on their bodies. Up to 5 batches are laid in their lifetime, larvae (maggots) hatch in 8 to 48 hours and are 1mm long depending on temperature. The larvae have three moults and reach 12mm in length. The larva then travels some distance to pupate and will crawl up smooth surfaces if moist. It prefers to pupate in the soil and buries itself 7-60cm depending on the medium. The larval skin is cast turning into a puparium, this is 5-6mm long, the adult fly hatches 3 to 4 weeks later. The fly lives for 25-52 days and is found from April to November normally.

Food:

In any high protein material from animal waste to refuse and food material especially if fermenting or rotting, moist material is favoured.

Where do House flies live?

A fly found around dustbins, compactors and where there are poor hygiene practices

Damage:

This fly exploits bad hygiene practices and proofing defects, it alights on light fittings and doorframes, vomits and defecates. Often spotting is visible. It carries disease and infests food products causing alarm, cost and possible litigation.

For more advice and control recommendations contact us on 01787 248049