



## SMALL FLIES: BIG PROBLEMS

Small flies, such as the Red-Eyed Fruit Fly and Dark-Eyed Fruit Fly, can live in your facility year-round. The Red-Eyed Fruit Fly can often be found breeding in decaying fruits and vegetables, while the Dark-Eyed Fruit Fly prefers to breed and feed in decaying organic materials most often found in wet, hidden or difficult to access areas such as drains. The prolific breeding and rapid development of these flies means that a few flies can quickly become a full-blown infestation in only a matter of days.

Small flies can have a major impact on your business. This pest can quickly become a nuisance to customers and even affect your facility's reputation or brand. In addition, small flies can negatively impact health inspection scores and may even transfer bacteria to food and food preparation surfaces. Small flies have become an increasingly serious problem and immediate action should be taken when they are found in your facility.



Small Fly Tarsus (foot): Small flies' sticky feet can collect and spread bacteria.



Small Fly Pulvillus: These fleshy pads found on small flies' feet help them walk on smooth or vertical surfaces.

## SCIENCE-BASED PEST SOLUTIONS

Ecolab's proven, proprietary approach defends against small fly infestations, addressing different life stages for maximum impact:

- Thorough inspections to identify breeding, feeding and resting sites
- Actionable structural and sanitation recommendations to eliminate breeding and feeding sites
- Breeding and feeding material removal and/or treatment to break the reproduction cycle
- Adult small fly removal for immediate relief and to prevent future breeding activity

Ecolab provides unmatched pest expertise, consistent service delivery, action-driven reporting and educational resources. You can be confident in maintaining a small fly-free facility when you partner with Ecolab.

To learn more about Ecolab's comprehensive pest elimination programs, visit <http://www.ecolab.com/pest>

## DID YOU KNOW...

- Unlike most pests, small flies often breed indoors, therefore, they can live in your facility year round
- A female small fly can lay up to 100 eggs per day which develop into adult flies in only 10 to 20 days - if breeding sites are left unaddressed, small fly populations can explode in a matter of days
- While small flies often breed and feed in inaccessible areas, their favorite forage areas include highly visible locations including salad bars, bread cases, soda dispensers and ice machines
- Small flies groom themselves on smooth surfaces, including food preparation surfaces, where they may transfer breeding and feeding material that could contain bacteria

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## WHAT YOU CAN DO

The following recommendations will help reduce conditions that attract and maintain small flies within your facility.

### A. Minimize exterior breeding opportunities

- Close all garbage receptacles with tight-fitting covers and eliminate garbage spillage
- Move garbage receptacles away from the facility whenever possible
- Eliminate standing water near the facility
- Remove weeds, tall grass and other excessive vegetation near the facility
- Remove clutter and items stored on the ground near the facility

### B. Minimize small fly entry opportunities

- Seal all doors and inspect and repair entrances on a regular basis
- In high pressure situations, consider double-door vestibules, air doors and plastic strip doors
- Minimize the amount of time doors and windows are left open
- Inspect incoming goods and products and reject material with evidence of small fly activity or that show signs of spoilage

### C. Minimize interior breeding opportunities

- Eliminate all standing water and accumulated condensation
- Establish standard cleaning practices, including periodic deep cleaning under equipment and counters
- Regularly clean drains to ensure minimal accumulation of debris in and around openings
- Replace cracked floor tiles and missing grout
- Seal all cracks and crevices in wet areas to minimize water entry
- Repair plumbing and drain problems immediately
- Clean rags and mop heads before storing
- Store perishables in closed plastic tubs

