

## Housefly



The **housefly** (also **house fly**, **house-fly** or **common housefly**), *Musca domestica*, is the most common of all flies fluttering in homes, and indeed one of the most widely distributed insects; it is a pest that can carry serious diseases.

The house fly is commonly found in almost all dwelling occupied by humans or animals. The house fly is a very fast breeder with the female laying up to 150 eggs at a time on 5 - 6 day intervals. House fly populations can literally explode in just a few short weeks. Eggs are commonly laid in rotting garbage, organic matter, etc. The complete house fly life cycle can complete itself in as little as 3- 5 days with adult flies living on average for up to 1 -2 months. Several generations of flies can be produced in 1 season.

Adult house flies eat food by use of a sponging mouthpart. It eats by regurgitating its food and then "sopping" it up with its mouthpart. House flies have long been suspected of spreading disease causing organisms, primarily by contacting germs and bacteria and by picking them up on their outer body. House flies then spread these germs or bacteria by simply landing on surfaces or food. It is for this reason that house flies are of such significant importance - their germ spreading habits make them a concern for everyone, particularly people involved in sanitation or sterilization programs. House flies cannot be tolerated and should be the # 1 pest of importance in hospitals, food manufacturing facilities, restaurants, bars, day care centers, nursing homes, not to mention residences.



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