

Drain Flies

Scientific Name: Psychoda species



Identification Tips:

Color	Brownish-gray to blackish with fuzzy appearance
Legs	6
Size	Adults measure 1/5 to 1/6 inch long
Identifying Characteristics	Body and wings are densely covered with hairs; antennae are long and fuzzy as well (13 segments); V-shaped appearance

Characteristics of this insect:

- Fly in short, jerky movements. They are weak fliers and are seen resting or crawling on walls nearby breeding site
- Females lay 30 to 100 eggs in irregular masses on the surface of gelatinous material, or polluted, shallow water nearby or inside drain pipes. Development time from egg to adult is 7 to 28 days depending on conditions. Adults live about two weeks, but are quickly replaced by others emerging into adulthood
- Troublesome for the homeowner if present in the drain system. It is possible that the drain/sewage pipe is cracked and these flies are breeding in the moist organic matter as a result of water seepage
- Most active at night. During the day, you may find them in shaded areas by plumbing fixtures or the sides of showers and tubs

Is this insect harmful to me?

Potentially, yes. Bronchial asthma can be triggered by inhaling fragments or dust of dead flies. In addition, being that this insect is associated with filthy, unsanitary areas, there exists a possibility of human health disease transmission.



Why are they in my structure?

There may be conditions present in the home that contribute to this insect being present. These conditions include drains that need to be professionally cleaned or a TV camera inserted into the drain to see if there is a crack in the pipe that is perpetuating the problem. Please remember that the common cures such as pouring scalding water or bleach down the drain do NOT work.

Can I treat the problem myself?

It has been our experience that most homeowners are unsuccessful at eliminating this problem. You need to identify the drain or drains causing the problem. You can do this by placing cheese cloth (type you bake with) or double-sided tape over the drain. If something gets caught, the drain needs treatment. You may consider having the drains professionally cleaned first, utilizing a bio-enzyme to eat away at the gelatinous material, and consulting with a pest management professional to aid in the remedy.

What can Apex do for me?

An Apex representative will spend time interviewing the homeowner in order to ascertain where the presence of drain flies is located. That being said, Apex can provide you with a one-time application or a preventative maintenance plan.

One-Time Treatment: An interview with the homeowner is conducted along with a detailed inspection of both the inside and outside of the structure. Time is spent determining the most effective application and then a targeted application of product is made to rid your home or surroundings of these unwanted guests.

Pest Prevention Plan: Quarterly inspections and treatments are performed to keep your dwelling pest free year around. Free service calls are provided whenever a pest outbreak occurs. Being that a variety of general insect problems are covered, this is a cost effective way to maintain the integrity of your home and is the **recommended treatment of Apex.**

Is the treatment safe for my children and pets?



Since 1969, Apex has always operated with one goal in mind: *“The safety of people, pets, places, and the environment is our first concern.”* Therefore, we will utilize crack and crevice and spot applications, baits, monitors, habitat modification recommendations, and natural products as a method of treatment when possible. When conventional treatments are required, our licensed technicians are trained to apply the products so as to not pose a problem to people or their pets. All conventional products are EPA registered and our technician will advise you of any necessary precautions.

What should I do now?

Call our office at 1-800-MUG-A-BUG (1-800-684-2284) to discuss your problem with a knowledgeable customer service representative. Otherwise, sign up for a free online quote today!

Bald-faced image courtesy of the University of Florida (<http://www.entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures>)

<http://www.apexpestcontrol.net/> 1-800-MUG-A-BUG

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