

Phorid Flies – Humpbacked Flies

Scientific Name: Family Phoridae



Identification Tips:

Color	May be black, brown or yellowish
Legs	6
Size	Adults measure 1/8 to 1/4 inch long
Identifying Characteristics	Humpbacked appearance; runs about in a erratic manner; strong, heavily pigmented veins in front area with remaining veins faint

Characteristics of this insect:

- Females lay up to 100 eggs one at a time on, in, or close to larval food. Egg to adult is dependent on temperature (11 days at 85 degrees Fahrenheit and 28 days at 72 degrees Fahrenheit)
- Common food sources include: moist residue on bottom of trash receptacle or garbage disposals; moist material in cracks of or under kitchen equipment; drains with excessive gelatinous build-up; dirty mop heads; faulty septic tanks; over-watered/rotting plants to mention a few
- 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
- Troublesome for mortuaries, morgues and mausoleums as they can breed in human corpses and often referred to as coffin flies
- Troublesome for healthcare facilities because the fly is quite unsanitary and the larvae of this fly has been found in open wounds of patients

Is this insect harmful to me?

Potentially, yes. Because they frequent unsanitary conditions, they may be capable of transmitting various disease-causing organisms to food materials that you may eventually consume.



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 phorid 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!

Phorid fly image courtesy of University of Nebraska-Lincoln (<http://lancaster.unl.edu/>)

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

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