

General Information

These pests get their name from being the most common fly found around homes. Adult House flies can grow to one-quarter of an inch long (about as wide as a pencil) and usually live between 15 and 25 days. House flies taste with their feet, which are 10 million times more sensitive to sugar than the human tongue!

Size	1/4"
Shape	Small, Oval
Color	Dark Grey
Legs	6
Wings	Yes
Antenna	Yes

Common Name	House Fly
Kingdom	Animalia
Phylum	Arthropoda
Class	Insecta
Order	Diptera
Family	Muscidae
Genus Species	Musca domestica

Diet

Flies do not have teeth *or* a stinger. Their mouths absorb food like a sponge. They can only eat liquids but they can turn many solid foods *into* a liquid through spitting or vomiting on it. Their tongues are shaped like straws so they can suck up their food. They eat any wet or decaying matter, but they are particularly attracted to pet waste because the odor is strong and it is easy for them to find.

Habitat

House flies tend to stay within 1-2 miles of where they were born but will travel up to 20 miles to find food. They breed in garbage cans, **compost** heaps and pet areas.

Impact

These insects have been known to carry over 100 different kinds of disease-causing germs.

Prevention

- * Keep you homes clean.
- * Remove trash regularly and seal your garbage cans.
- * Clean up pet waste immediately.
- * Use fine mesh screens on doors and windows to prevent flies from getting into your home.

Prevention

- * Avoid using other individuals' combs, hats, towels, etc.
- * Have someone check your scalp at least once a month to make sure you haven't been exposed.

To learn more about this and other flies, visit <http://www.pestworldforkids.org/flies.html>