

Keep Flies Out

A Fly Prevention Checklist for Businesses

Walk your property with this list once a month, and weekly during warm weather.



Flies are more than a nuisance. A house fly can land on garbage and then on a prep table or a customer's plate, carrying bacteria with it. In warm weather flies breed fast, and a few left unchecked can turn into a serious problem within weeks. Nearly every fly problem comes down to three things: a way in, a place to breed, and something to eat. Use this checklist to take all three away.

1. Outside the Building

- ☐ **Keep the grounds clean.** Pick up litter, food wrappers, and pet or animal waste around the property daily.
- ☐ **Clean up spills fast.** Rinse away spilled food, drinks, and grease on sidewalks, patios, and drive-thru lanes.
- ☐ **Eliminate standing water.** Fix leaking spigots, clogged gutters, and low spots where water and organic debris collect.
- ☐ **Maintain landscaping.** Remove grass clippings, fallen fruit, and decaying mulch or compost near the building.
- ☐ **Mind outdoor seating.** Bus and wipe patio tables promptly, and keep outdoor trash cans lidded and emptied often.
- ☐ **Watch exterior lighting.** Bright lights by doors draw flying insects. Use yellow or LED bulbs and mount lights away from entrances where possible.

2. Doors, Windows & Air Flow

- ☐ **Keep doors closed.** Do not prop open back, side, or dock doors. Install self-closing hinges on high-traffic doors.
- ☐ **Seal gaps.** Add door sweeps and weatherstripping so no daylight shows around any exterior door.
- ☐ **Install air curtains.** Use air curtains or strip doors at loading docks, drive-thru windows, and frequently used back doors.
- ☐ **Repair screens.** Keep tight-fitting, undamaged screens on any window, vent, or door that opens to the outside.
- ☐ **Check building air pressure.** When doors open, air should flow out, not in. Ask your HVAC contractor about keeping the building under positive pressure.
- ☐ **Close drive-thru and pass-through windows.** Keep them shut between customers.

3. Trash & Dumpsters

- ☐ **Keep lids closed.** Dumpster, compactor, and trash can lids should stay closed, and drain plugs should be in place.
- ☐ **Bag all trash.** Tie off bags before they go into the dumpster so food waste is never loose.
- ☐ **Clean the area.** Power wash dumpster pads, grease bins, and recycling areas regularly to remove buildup where flies breed.
- ☐ **Schedule enough pickups.** Trash should never overflow. In warm months, flies can develop in uncollected waste in about a week.
- ☐ **Clean indoor bins.** Use lined, lidded cans, empty them daily, and wash the cans themselves on a regular schedule.
- ☐ **Rinse recyclables.** Rinse bottles, cans, and containers before storing them, especially sugary drinks and beer.

4. Drains & Floors

- ☐ **Clean floor drains.** Scrub drains, drain covers, and baskets regularly. The slimy buildup inside drains is a prime breeding spot for drain and fruit flies.
- ☐ **Use a drain cleaner made for organic buildup.** Bacterial or enzyme drain treatments break down buildup that boiling water and bleach miss.
- ☐ **Repair damaged floors.** Re-grout broken tile and seal cracks where food and moisture collect.
- ☐ **Keep floors dry.** Squeegee standing water and do not leave wet mops, mop buckets, or rags sitting out overnight.
- ☐ **Check under equipment.** Pull out and clean under coolers, ice machines, dish machines, and soda fountains, where spills go unseen.
- ☐ **Report persistent flies near drains.** Small flies that keep coming back after cleaning can point to a broken drain line under the floor.

5. Food Areas & Sanitation

- ☐ **Store produce properly.** Refrigerate ripe fruit and vegetables, and throw out overripe or damaged produce right away.
- ☐ **Cover food.** Keep food, sweeteners, and condiments covered or sealed when not in use.
- ☐ **Clean the bar.** Wipe bar tops, rinse bar mats and drains, and cap liquor bottles and pour spouts at closing.
- ☐ **Clean beverage stations.** Clean soda nozzles, drink lines, and drip trays regularly. Sugary residue attracts fruit flies.
- ☐ **Clean break rooms nightly.** Do not leave food, dirty dishes, coffee cups, or open drinks out overnight.

6. Watch for Warning Signs

- ☐ **House flies.** Larger gray flies around trash, doors, and food usually mean an outdoor breeding source or open entry points.
- ☐ **Fruit flies.** Small tan flies with red eyes near produce, the bar, or drains point to fermenting food or buildup nearby.
- ☐ **Drain flies.** Fuzzy, moth-like flies resting on walls near sinks and drains mean organic buildup inside the drain.
- ☐ **Fly specks.** Small dark spots on walls, light fixtures, and ceilings show where flies rest.
- ☐ **Maggots.** Larvae in dumpsters, drains, or under equipment mean flies are breeding on site.
- ☐ **Rising counts.** More flies than usual on fly light boards, or in the dining area, means a source needs attention now.

7. Make It a Routine

- ☐ **Assign responsibility.** Name one person to complete this checklist and report problems.
- ☐ **Train your staff.** Make sure employees know to keep doors closed, clean drains, and report flies right away.
- ☐ **Use professional fly lights.** Place insect light traps near entrances but out of view from outside and away from food prep areas. Replace bulbs and glue boards on schedule.
- ☐ **Keep records.** Log inspections, cleaning, repairs, and service visits. Many health and food safety audits ask for them.
- ☐ **Act quickly.** Flies multiply fast. Call a professional to find and eliminate breeding sources at the first sign of a problem.

Seeing more flies? Don't wait.

A professional inspection can find breeding sources and entry points you may miss.

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