

Facts about...

The Common Housefly

CLASS: Hexapoda

ORDER: Diptera

FAMILY: Calypterate Muscoidea

GENUS: Musca

SPECIES: Domesticus

In the order Diptera, there are more than eighty-five thousand different species, some seventeen thousand of them in North America alone. Many types of flies (fruit fly, grass fly, horsefly, blow fly, stable fly, etc.) are annoying... but the common housefly (*Musca domestica*) – because of its eating habits, breeding habits and ability to exist under almost any conditions – is one of our most dangerous insects. Some little known facts about the common housefly follow below:

- The common housefly is a perfect host for many types of bacteria... proven carriers of such germs as gangrene, Typhoid, leprosy, tuberculosis, amoebic dysentery, bubonic plague, and listeria, just to name a few.
- The common housefly has no mouth. Instead, it has an eating tube through which it vomits a drop of fluid from its stomach and deposits it on its intended meal. This fluid is then sucked up along with the nutrients it has dissolved, leaving behind untold numbers of germs.
- A fly may travel as far as thirteen miles from its birthplace.
- The common housefly has a maximum flying speed of five miles per hour... even though its wings beat 20 thousand times per minute.
- The fly has four thousand separate lenses in each eye – eight thousand in all – providing wide angle vision which is in fact omnidirectional.
- The female fly may lay as many as 21 batches of offspring, each containing up to 130 eggs.
- The larvae [maggots] normally hatch in about two days. Larvae feed on surrounding waste... and grow and shed their skin twice before entering the pupae stage.
- The larvae-pupae stage lasts from one to two weeks. The adult fly emerges from the pupae stage full grown.
- The adult fly has a normal life of about thirty (30) days during warm weather although flies live as long as five months.
- During cold weather the larvae-pupae stage may last for weeks or even months, with the adult fly emerging in warm weather.
- In the summer reproduction months (April to September), the descendents of one pair of flies, if all lived and reproduced normally, would number 191,000,000,000,000,000... enough to cover the entire land area of the world to a depth of 18 feet.



Flies and other noxious flying insects can be eliminated by a properly designed Insect-O-Cutor® Flying Insect Elimination System.



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