



Fly Control in Commercial Accounts

Trash management and sanitation issues



Proper management of trash is the number one issue in fly control. All of the filth flies (house flies, little house flies, blow flies, and flesh flies) and fruit flies (*Drosophila* spp.) will breed in rotting garbage or are attracted to it.

Maggots of these flies can be found in almost every dumpster. And the garbage itself is not the only issue; spilled food debris and the liquefied runoff from dumpsters and other trash receptacles also breeds and attracts flies (and other pests, as well, of course). Recycling bins also attract flies and should be managed carefully. Grease traps and grease barrels can also attract flies.

GARBAGE CANS

Garbage cans should have plastic liners. The best cans are made of metal with swinging/closing lids. The cans should be cleaned regularly and accumulated garbage removed daily, more often if special outside events are occurring. Garbage cans should be inspected weekly to insure that trash or liquid hasn't accumulated between the trash bag and the base of the can. Recycling containers should be emptied regularly into a holding area which should be at least 30 meters away from any food areas. Garbage cans and recycling containers should be degreased and cleaned monthly (more often if necessary).

DUMPSTERS

Dumpsters are the number one source of house fly problems around food facilities. Dumpsters should be

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located at least 30 meters from any food concessions. The dumpster should be situated on a thick concrete pad and, if possible, should slope to a sanitary sewer drain to handle runoff from cleaning. Dumpster lids must be kept closed. If there's so much trash that the lid can't close, then a bigger container is necessary or more frequent trash pick-ups should be scheduled.

Dumpsters must be washed out regularly using high pressure and a degreasing solution or foam. Dumpsters that are damaged, leaking, rusted through, or that have lids that will not close properly should be replaced. Facility employees should make it a regular habit to police the dumpster area on a regular basis, especially after the dumpster has just been emptied, to make sure that trash has not been spilled.

CLEANING AND GREASE REMOVAL

Spilled grease from grease traps and grease barrels is a powerful attractant for the house fly. Grease barrels must be maintained to minimize spill grease. Prime fly breeding and attractant sites inside a food facility include garbage cans, food processing and preparation equipment, dishwasher and surrounding area, floor drains, and floors under equipment. Food preparation surfaces should be cleaned promptly after use. Grease and food debris should be cleaned regularly from ovens, exhaust filters, grease traps, floor drains, and any cracks and crevices that tend to accumulate debris. Enzyme cleaners can be used in floor drains and floors can be periodically washed down with boric acid cleaners. Grease can be removed by (1) the use of degreasers, and particularly degreasing foam followed by a wash down, and (2) portable steam-cleaning machines. The more often this is done, the less likely that flies will be attracted to the area.

Remember that pests are always on the lookout for food and they have hit the jackpot in a garbage storage area.

Your pest control measures must start in the dustbin area and you will only be successful if there is a regular garbage removal plan in place.

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REGISTRATION NO: AFRI/c
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