

Clusterfly Control

Advice to Householders



■ Clusterfly Control

Cluster flies average in size between 6mm to 10mm long. They are dark grey in colour and although they closely resemble house flies, they are usually larger and have golden yellow hairs on the thorax.



Cluster Fly

Biology and habits

These flies are parasites of earthworms and breed outdoors in lawn and fields during the spring and summer months. Females lay their eggs in the soil which hatch in three days. The larvae use earthworms as their main food source. When the adult fly emerges they then feed on flowers.

They have been known to squeeze around window frames and roof vents to find winter quarters when the weather turns cold. They generally seek warm sites, ie. Buildings with protective cracks for shelter, crawling back as far as they can get.

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If we have unseasonably warm weather in late Autumn or Winter, they may emerge thinking it is spring, going from the warmer weather outside. They fly very slowly when they first emerge and are strongly attracted to light, be it sunlight or artificial light.

Control measures

Cluster fly problems can be partially prevented however after the autumn little can be done. You can remove most of the flies by using a vacuum cleaner around the loft and roof voids. An aerosol fly spray containing pyrethrin can be used around window areas if flies are present. Electronic fly traps can be used if flies are persistently entering loft spaces. You can also purchase cluster fly control Kits online from some pest control supply companies.

Insecticidal control

In order to obtain the best results, insecticidal control measures should be integrated with good hygiene practices.

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Other information leaflets available:

- ▶ Carpet, Museum & Fur Beetle Control
- ▶ Furniture Beetle (Woodworm) & Wharf Borer Control
- ▶ Cockroach Control
- ▶ Larder Beetle Control
- ▶ Spider Beetle Control
- ▶ Flea Control
- ▶ Biscuit Beetle Control
- ▶ Silverfish, Earwig, woodlouse & Slug Control
- ▶ Psocid (Booklouse) Control
- ▶ Seagull Control
- ▶ Pest Control Advice
- ▶ Rodent Control

Customer Services

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Corks Lane, Hadleigh
Ipswich IP7 6SJ
Tel: (01473) 825890
www.babergh.gov.uk/babergh/pests

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01473 826622

