

# TRULY ON CLUSTER FLIES



Cluster Flies are slow moving flies that are found in homes in the winter and early spring. They are more of a nuisance pest than anything else, but they can cause some staining on walls and curtains. These flies are 8 to 10 millimeters long which makes them a little larger than the common house fly. Cluster Flies are dark grey and get their name from the fact they congregate on the south and west sides of houses in the fall. Cluster Flies make their way into the home through fascia, soffits, or cracks in walls. This pest is generally more of a problem in rural areas.

Cluster flies will over winter in homes before coming out on warm sunny



days in the late winter and early spring. They can have up to four generations during the year. The fly lays its eggs in the soil of fields or lawns. After hatching, the larvae parasitizes earthworm and then they pupate a couple of weeks later in the soil. This cycle to adult fly takes approximately 30 days. Cluster Fly adults feed on flower nectar.

There are several methods of controlling cluster flies in the home. This would include vacuuming the flies as they come out in the spring and congregate on the windows.

The use of caulking on cracks in the walls and screens over soffits, fascia, gable ends and vents can also be very effective in detouring the entrance of the flies when looking for a place to hibernate. Covering all the entry points can be a very difficult and expensive job. However, filling any large gaps or holes is an important first line of defense against entry.

Controlling the Cluster Flies before getting into the house is an economical and effective method of control. Using products at the correct time and in the correct places will minimize the Cluster Fly problem. Control in the fall is the best timing as keeping the flies out of the house is preferred. If the house was not treated the previous fall, spring applications can be made to lessen the irritation of the flies.

Ask your local Truly Nolen expert for the best method of treatment for your home.

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