

# KEEP OUT CLUSTER FLIES

Unlike other common flies found in Canada, cluster flies do not pose a significant health threat. Named for their tendency to cluster together in groups while overwintering indoors, these insects can become a nuisance without proper prevention.



## IDENTIFICATION

- Looks similar to house flies, but are slightly larger, darker, lacks the four black stripes and move more sluggishly.
- Has a checkered abdomen and many golden hairs on the thorax.



## HABITAT

- Appear indoors during late summer to early fall, and re-emerge during early spring.
- Tend to enter and hibernate in facilities surrounded by large, open lawns rather than ones shaded by trees.
- Gather together in isolated and protected spots, such as wall voids, to hibernate for the winter.



## POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

- Can stain walls and windows.
- Attract carrion-feeding insects if they die inside wall voids.
- Cause a nuisance when large numbers congregate on windows and inside ceiling light fixtures.



## PREVENTION TIPS

- Seal cracks and crevices in exterior walls.
- Ensure window, door and vent screens are in good condition.
- Install insect light traps in safe, enclosed spaces.
- Use a vacuum to help eliminate dead flies indoors.



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
West and south facing sides of your facility are exposed to more sunlight, and the extra warmth can attract cluster flies. Pay special attention to potential entry points in these areas.