Flies annoy everyone. Flies can carry germs that can make you sick. Flies can spoil food. Sometimes it is hard to get rid of flies. This brochure will show you how to keep flies out of your house and off your food.

### TYPES OF FLIES

**HOUSE FLY**
Large flies usually come into the house through open doors or windows. Large flies feed on and lay eggs in garbage, dead animals, and pet wastes. Houseflies and blowflies are common large flies.

**GREEN BLOW FLY**

**FLESH FLY**
Small flies such as gnats, fruit flies, and drain flies often come in the house because they like very ripe fresh fruits or vegetables.

Adult flies and young flies look very different. Any fly that flies is an adult. Young flies are called maggots, and they crawl around food.

**FRUIT FLY**

**DRAIN FLY**

**NEVER** use poisons indoors to kill flies. Bug bombs and sprays in cans will kill some flies, but they will not solve the problem.

Each time you use fly-poison, you and your family may be exposed to health hazards.

The following 5 steps will help you control flies and protect your health:

- **Call your Local Cooperative Extension Service office.**
- **Visit our Websites:**
  - www.gafamilies.com
  - www.entomology.ent.uga.edu

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service.
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**Gale A. Buchanan, Dean and Director**

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Garbage attracts flies. Clean, dry garbage cans are less attractive to flies and other pests. Use a plastic bag in your indoor garbage can. Wash your garbage can when it gets dirty. Take out garbage often and never keep it in the house for more than 3-4 days. Outside, keep garbage in a can with a tight-fitting lid. Take the garbage away at least once a week.

Outside and inside, make sure screens, windows, and doors fit tightly. Repair holes in screens. Most flies come in the house through unscreened doors or windows. Some flies lay eggs in animal droppings. Keep the yard area free of pet wastes by sealing the pet waste in a plastic bag and placing it with the outside garbage or flushing it down the toilet.

Drain flies will lay eggs in small amounts of water anywhere in the house. Drain flies do not carry germs, but they become annoying in large numbers. Fix water leaks and keep water from condensing on household surfaces. Air conditioners, toilets, and water pipes can provide enough condensation to cause problems with drain flies.

The fungus gnat lays eggs in the soil around houseplants if the soil is too moist. Do not over water houseplants. Let the plants soil dry out before you water again to help kill the maggots in the soil.

Some flies feed on fruits and vegetables and lay eggs in them. Keep ripe fruits and vegetables in the refrigerator if you are not planning to use them right away. If you save vegetable/fruit scraps for compost, keep the scraps in the refrigerator or in a tightly sealed container until you compost them.

If you discover large numbers of small flies, look at any fruits or vegetables you keep out of the refrigerator (don’t forget your compost scraps). Also check the drain or other areas where water may collect. Check houseplants for small flies. If you cannot find where the flies are coming from, try these ideas.

1) Seal off rooms one at a time to see which room holds the source of the flies.
2) Take plants outside to see if flies are coming from plants.
3) Seal sink and tub drains (a plate will do the job) to find out if drain flies are coming out of the sink or tub.

If many large flies bother you, try to find the source. Check the area around your house for pet wastes and garbage. Make sure your outside garbage can is clean and the lid fits tightly. If you see large, shiny blue or green flies, there is a dead animal nearby.