

# CLUSTER FLY

## IDENTIFICATION

Cluster flies, commonly mistaken with house flies, are about 3/8 of an inch long. They have a dark gray, non-metallic color with golden hairs on their thorax and between the legs. Cluster fly larva are cream colored with an elongated wedge shape, eggs and larva are seldom seen, however, because they are laid in the soil.

## HABITS

In the fall, cluster flies seek warm places for winter hibernation, typically using the same structure every year. Cluster flies are the most problematic when they are seeking shelter. They occupy wall voids where they can get the most sunlight. Lamps, windows and other bright light areas are attractive to cluster flies and are where they can commonly be found during the fall, winter, and spring months. Once the weather gets nicer, cluster flies begin to leave. Most commonly, they are seen leaving wall switches, outlets, ceiling fixtures, window and door frames, or window pulleys.



## CONTROL

The ultimate prevention of cluster flies relies heavily on outside treatments. Residual insecticides can be applied along all vertical walls and adjacent overhangs. These treatments should be used in late summer before cluster flies enter homes for hibernation. For interior control, Pyrethrin-based products are directly applied to the hibernation areas. These areas include attics, false ceilings, and wall voids.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ALTERATIONS

Alterations can be made to prevent the entrance of hibernating cluster flies. Vents in roofs and overhangs should be screened with fine-mesh screening. Caulk should be applied around cable entrances, windows, doors, and overhangs. These applications can help keep flies out of buildings.

## PROVIDED SERVICES

Technicians can provide services depending on the time of year. Retail purchases include Permicide Concentrate and Bonide Household Insect Control for exterior use, Cessco and Pyrethrin Foggers for interior use. These products are recommended for customers who prefer to do it themselves.

For more information:  
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