

## Making a complaint about fly nuisance

If you suspect that fly numbers have increased around the vicinity of your property, you are advised to do **ALL** of the following:

- Buy some rolls of sticky fly paper and hang these up in the worst affected rooms (Do not place outside).
- Download a copy of the fly monitoring sheet from our website at: [www.southbucks.gov.uk](http://www.southbucks.gov.uk)
- Label, date and time the fly strip you have put up.
- Leave the fly strip up for 48hrs only.
- After 48hrs, label, date and time the sticky strip again.
- Open and spread out a layer of cling film onto a table.
- Bring down your sticky fly paper and carefully place onto the cling film.
- Count the number of flies and note the figures on a sheet of paper.
- Repeat this exercise twice a week for three weeks.

Where sustained increases in weekly counts of fly numbers are identified, then you may contact the Environmental Health unit on 01895 837 333.

This advisory leaflet is intended to be a helpful and useful source of information and not binding on any party. The Council offers no guarantee or warranties concerning the accuracy of the information supplied.

More information is available  
on our website  
[www.southbucks.gov.uk](http://www.southbucks.gov.uk)

For further advice contact :  
01895 837333

Email:  
[environment@southbucks.gov.uk](mailto:environment@southbucks.gov.uk)

Or write to:  
Environmental Health  
Council Offices  
Capswood  
Oxford Road  
Denham

If you need this information in  
another format such as large  
print please ask us.



**South Bucks**  
District Council



# Dealing with Nuisance from Flies

## Environmental Health



Council Offices, Capswood,  
Oxford Road, Denham  
UB9 4LH  
Telephone: 01895 837200  
Minicom: 01895 837251  
[www.southbucks.gov.uk](http://www.southbucks.gov.uk)



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## Background

Environmental Health at South Bucks District Council has been receiving increased numbers of complaints regarding fly nuisance from a variety of sources over the years. Examples of sources include poultry units, farms and sewage works to mention a few.

It is obvious that in our daily lives, we come across flies quite often. The concern is when increased numbers of the flies begin to interfere with the 'reasonable enjoyment' of our properties.

It is important that infestations are identified and investigated at an early stage since they can be difficult to manage and both time and resource consuming to once they are established.

Although fly infestations have been a problem for many years it was only in 2006, that the legislation changed and Local Authorities could take action. Investigations to assess nuisance insects from commercial activity are relatively new to environmental health since they were added to the definition of statutory nuisance under the Environmental Protection Act.

## How are flies a statutory nuisance?

Insects of any species can become a statutory nuisance when they are traceable to any commercial activity and there is a noticeable increase in their numbers over as a result. Flies are carriers of various diseases which can have a negative impact on human health. Therefore it is essential to ensure that they are not allowed to increase significantly in numbers and breeding sites are quickly identified and eradicated where possible.

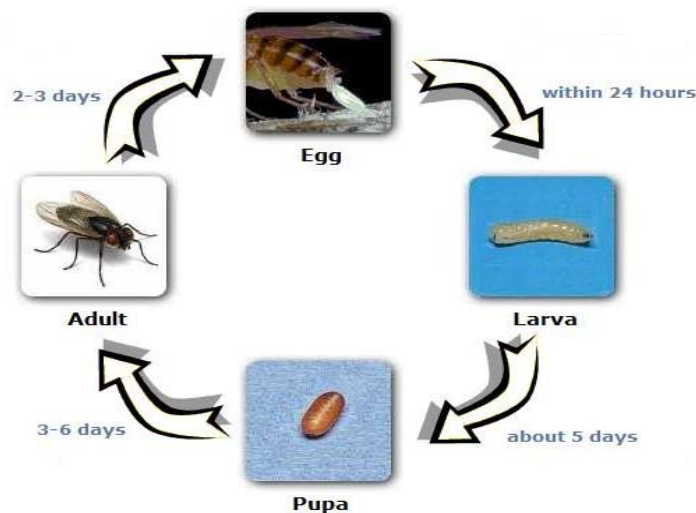
## Control at source

By far the most effective control is to identify the breeding source and either remove it or introduce control measures at that point. A range of control measures including physical, biological and chemical treatments and management practices can be used to for control of fly numbers.

To ensure an effective control strategy, it is important to understand the biological life cycle of a typical fly.

## Life cycle of a typical fly

The life cycle of a typical fly has four stages as shown below.



(1) Egg, (2) Larvae, (3) Pupae and (4 )Adult. At each stage, the appearance of the fly changes completely.

Insect lifecycles are shortened by warmer weather so are affected by the rising temperatures we are experiencing, making our climate ideal for various forms of flies to breed.

## Fly nuisance - the South Bucks experience

There are two species of flies which traditionally have caused complaints from residents within South Bucks over the years. These are the **Common House Fly (Musca Domestica)** and **Lesser House Flies (Fannia Canicularis)**.



Lesser House Fly



House Fly

These two species are a real issue due to their sporadic breeding/feeding habits and extensive flight range (upwards of 1 mile), they can be found always almost anywhere there is a plentiful supply of food (organic and decomposing matter) exists. They accumulate in large numbers in shady areas, trees, hedgerows and gardens and have a particular flight pattern which causes annoyance and distress to people of all ages. They also enter houses and rest on surfaces in kitchens and food rooms transferring bacteria and spreading diseases.

The main physical differences are in their body shapes and their manner of flying. Both infest houses and gardens leading residents to resort to preventative control measures, such as keeping doors and windows closed during the summer and screening points of access to the premises.

During an active infestation, it may be necessary to use sprays, fly screens, electronic fly control and fly strips.