

Flies

Most types of flies in San Diego County are nuisance pests. Follow the tips below to help prevent flies from breeding around your property.



Remove Attractants

Attractants are things that draw flies to your property. These include dog poop, trash, or anything with a strong smell. Remove them to help reduce flies.

Remove Breeding Sources

Flies breed mostly in moist organic matter. To help prevent flies from reproducing:

- **Cover garbage:** Flies like to breed in the “muck” often found at the bottom of garbage cans. Clean garbage cans regularly and keep lids on tight.
- **Dry manure:** Wet manure attracts flies. Keep manure piles dry, flat, or covered. Dog poop may attract flies and should be removed, but typically is not responsible for fly breeding as it dries quickly.
- **Dry grass clippings, straw or hay:** get rid of clippings quickly or make sure they stay dry.
- **Cover compost piles:** Wet, decaying matter attracts flies. Make sure to keep compost piles tightly covered.

For more information, visit SDVector.com,
or contact the Vector Control Program:

(858) 694-2888

vector@sdcounty.ca.gov

Exclude Flies From Your Home & Business

To keep out flies out of your home:

- Screen doors and windows with at least 16-gauge mesh.
- For small flies, such as fruit flies, use 24-gauge mesh.
- Keep screens for windows and doors in good repair and free of gaps or holes.

Businesses may also want to:

- Install self-closing doors.
- Install high-velocity fans over doors that must remain open.

Other Control Methods

Other control methods are generally not as effective as removing breeding sources, but may help.

- Fly strips are easy to use and can be placed around the home to help catch flies. Fly strips can be purchased at most grocery or home improvement stores.
- Fly swatters are effective for occasional flies.
- If insecticides are used, be sure to follow the instructions carefully.



If using fly traps with fly attractant lures, place them around the perimeter of the property, away from where people spend time, so as not to draw flies towards people.

How Can I Learn More?

Knowing the type of fly on your property can help to identify its breeding source. You can submit a fly sample to the Vector Control Program for identification.

Learn more about flies and other vectors at SDVector.com

County of San Diego Vector Control Program

(858) 694-2888 | vector@sdcounty.ca.gov

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