

# Wiltshire Council - Fact Sheet

## Flies

Every year, Wiltshire Council receives many complaints about fly infestations, particularly during the summer and autumn months.

- Flies are common in rural areas, especially where there are poultry farms, stables and piggeries nearby.
- Flies breed in specific areas according to type.

There are many types of fly but the following are the most common cause of problems:

- Common House Fly (*Musca domestica*)
- Lesser House Fly (*Fannia canicularis*)
- Autumn Fly (*Musca autumnalis*)
- Cluster Fly (*Pollenia rudis*)

### The Common House Fly

- The female house fly can lay 120-150 eggs at a time and, depending on the temperature, the eggs can hatch into maggots within 8 - 48 hours.
- The new fly can emerge from four days in the summer months, to several weeks in the cooler weather.
- In this country, the earliest flies tend to emerge in May the greatest numbers are usually found during August and September.

Breeding more or less ceases in October, except in heated premises.

During the winter, the House Fly's cycle is longer.

The flies will breed in suitable indoor places and in decaying animal or vegetable matter, including rubbish heaps and horse manure.

### The Lesser House Fly

The Lesser House Fly has a similar life cycle to that of the Common House Fly,

although it does not tend to move between waste matter and human food.

It is identifiable by its quick darting movements.

### **The Autumn Fly**

The Autumn Fly is similar in appearance to the House Fly.

Its name originates from the fact that it only appears in houses during the autumn months.

This fly breeds in cowpats.

### **Control**

- Keep food covered and stored away in the fridge or cupboards
- Be extra careful to cover meat, fruit and vegetables when preparing meals
- Wrap all food waste before disposing of it in the bin and tie rubbish bags securely
- Make sure the bin is covered with a well fitting lid and is cleaned regularly  
Keep wheelie bins and dustbins away from doors and windows
- Use fly papers and contact sprays to deal with flies in the house
- Keep windows, doors and curtains closed and use screens if they are available