

Cluster Flies

Cluster flies, which are also commonly referred to as 'Attic Flies' are found throughout the UK. They commonly hibernate in buildings in large 'clusters' hence their name. They usually appear around the onset of winter, and also in early spring. They are commonly confused with bluebottles.

These insects tend to select the same buildings for clustering year after year, and although there is no definitive explanation for this phenomenon there are many theories, a popular one being that the flies deposit pheromones in buildings each year before they leave.

Cluster flies are 'field' flies and in summer and early autumn they are of no consequence. However, as the weather becomes cooler, they often seek out shelter in houses and other buildings, usually attics.



Control Methods

Control methods for cluster flies are often difficult. It is often impossible to keep flies from entering premises. Although proofing is seldom 100% successful, sealing around window and door frames and other obvious entry points can assist in their control.

Aerosol fly killers will deal effectively with small clusters, but larger and more established ones may need to be treated professionally, and it is important to remember that total eradication of this pest can never be guaranteed.

Pest Control Service.

Luton Borough Council offers professional treatments for Cluster Flies on a commercial basis. If you are unsure whether or not you have cluster flies the council offers a free insect identification service. Samples must be brought in sealed, see through containers with contact phone numbers attached.