

Cluster Flies Information Sheet

PCD39 - April 2011



Introduction

Cluster flies are common in the UK and are so-called as they hibernate in large numbers or clusters in buildings. Swarming flies have a similar hibernating nature and these can form mixed populations of flies inside buildings.

Cluster Fly Problems

Due to weather conditions in our country, there are only usually 2 generation of cluster fly each year, but up to 4 generations in hot weather is possible. In summer and early autumn cluster flies are found in fields, but as the wether becomes cooler, they will find shelter in nooks and crannies in houses and other buildings and can often be found in large numbers (several thousand) in roof spaces. Often they will return to the same building year after year. Large numbers of cluster flies hibernating together can produce a sickly smell and if warm enough, will fly around living areas where they are attracted to light. While this may cause a nuisance, cluster flies do not pose any risk to human health and their presence does not reflect poor hygiene.

Prevention and Control

- Prevent access into buildings by blocking access into cavity walls e.g. replace missing bricks and seal around windows and doors
- Once inside the building cluster flies do not breed and can be controlled by using a wide range of insecticides, pesticides and fly strips which can be purchased from garden centres/shops, hardware and ironmongers and DIY stores. Survey the area for bats which are protected by law before applying treatment and contact Natural England, Tel: 01132747938 for bat advice.
- Repellants although not a proven method of control may prevent a recurrence of cluster flies in future years.

Pesticides and insecticides are potentially dangerous and should be stored away from children and pets. Always read the labels and follow manufacturers instructions.

Please note that Kirklees council does not provide a service for the control of cluster flies, but can provide further information on request.



Further Information

Kirklees Environmental Protection

Tel: 01484 226891 Email: pest.control@kirklees.gov.uk