Did you know there are 200 known species of flies in North America? These flies are not only a nuisance but can also spread diseases. They tarnish your hard-earned reputation by damaging your customer loyalty and bottom line. Use the information below to understand the threats of flies, identify the pests and learn how to help prevent them.

**Prevention Measures**

**Inspection:** Work with your pest management professional to identify conducive conditions and eradicate the source of the infestation.

**Mechanical Control:** Install preventive equipment like wall-mounted insect light traps, air curtains and other mechanical devices to prevent the presence of flies.

**Exclusion:** Seal cracks, gaps and holes in doors, windows and walls with caulk or weather stripping. Work with an HVAC professional to establish positive air flow.

**Employees:** Educate your staff about what will attract flies. Train them to identify activity and attractants, as well as to help control them.

**Sanitation:** Using cleaning solutions that decompose organic materials from drains and high-use surfaces. Move dumpsters as far away from the building as possible.

**Where to find flies?**
- Food preparation areas
- Storage areas
- Loading and unloading docks
- Incoming shipments
- Exterior of building
- Plants, foliage and any areas with decaying organic matter such as food.

**Common Flies in Commercial Establishments**

- **Blow Fly**
  - Family Calliphoridae
  - Musca domestica

- **Drain Fly**
  - Family Psychodidae
  - Phorid Fly
  - Family Phoridae

- **Phorid Fly**
  - Family Psychodidae

- **Fruit Fly**
  - Drosophila spp.

- **Fungus Gnat**
  - Lycoriella spp.

- **House Fly**
  - Musca domestica

- **Food Contaminators:** Flies often find their food in decaying organic matter such as animal feces. They are poor fliers, and can leave fecal particles on clean food and preparation surfaces when they land.

- **Disease Spreaders:** Flies can transmit pathogens that cause E. coli, salmonellosis and shingles. They are also known to carry diseases that can cause food poisoning or respiratory infections.

- **Fast Breeders:** Some species of female flies lay up to 2,000 eggs in their lives, and fly larvae develop into adults in about 7-10 days.

- **Food Contaminators:** A fly can carry potentially twice as many pathogens on a forefinger.

In a recent survey, 75% of respondents listed flies as one of the three most commonly encountered pests.*

*Association for Healthcare Environment member survey conducted in 2011.

**The Threats of Flies**

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