Facts about the stable fly

Stomoxys calcitrans (L)

- The stable fly has several common names including ‘the biting house fly’ and the ‘dog fly’. It is about 1/4 inch long, is dark grey and the abdomen has a series of dark irregular spots on it.
- Stable flies are bloodsucking insects which cause considerable irritation and injury to animals and people from their painful bite. Horses and cattle are particularly vulnerable to fly attack and become very distressed and lose condition rapidly. In some cases, this can result in death of the animal.
- The fly has a sharp mouth part (proboscis) for piercing the skin and drawing blood.
- Both male and female flies will bite. The female fly needs multiple blood meals before laying her eggs.
- Stable flies can breed in animal and poultry manures (particularly when mixed with organic matter), horse stables, decaying vegetable matter, open compost heaps and grass clippings.
- Breeding mainly occurs during the spring and summer months.

For some simple steps to prevent stable flies breeding, see inside.

Fly control products

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product Names</th>
<th>Active Ingredient</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residual Adult flies:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ficam W</td>
<td>800g/L Bendiocarb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyfly Plus</td>
<td>100g/kg Methomyl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooper R.I.</td>
<td>250g/kg Permethrin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cidrin</td>
<td>100g/L Deltamethrin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responsor professional</td>
<td>50g/L Cyfluthrin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demon</td>
<td>400g/kg Cypermethrin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knockdown - Adult flies:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redlin</td>
<td>50g/L Bioresmethrin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bortex 550</td>
<td>400g/L Pyrethrin Butoxide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laron in manure:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dipterex 500SL</td>
<td>50g/L Triphloron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dipterex SP 800</td>
<td>800g/L Triphloron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stockpiled manure:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vipona</td>
<td>50g/L Dichlorvos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neocid 200P</td>
<td>200g/L Diazinon</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Stable Fly

Other leaflets available

Agriculture Western Australia:
- Flies and Manure 6/96
- Stable Fly Farmnote 101/94
- Environmental Health Guides:
  - Fly Control
  - Fleas
  - Rats
  - Mosquitoes
  - Termite Prevention for Your Home

Further information

For further information contact your local government Environmental Health Officer or
Applied Environmental Health Service
PO Box 8172, Stirling Street
PERTH WA 6849
Telephone: (09) 388 4999
Facsimile: (09) 388 4955
http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au

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Health Department of Western Australia 12/96
EHS 57
Manure management is an essential part of fly control

What you can do!

KEEP animal enclosures clean on a daily basis
COLLECT manures including soiled straw or litter bedding from enclosures such as horse stables and chicken runs

Then either

KEEP manures in a fly proof bin/container or
COVER it completely with a tarpaulin or heavy duty plastic sheet to keep dry.

Or

BURY manure under at least 50mm (2 inches) of soil or
DISPOSE of it in sealed bags/containers and take to your local tip.

Other common stable fly breeding sites:

- Rotting vegetable matter
- Compost heaps
- Grass clippings
- Spilt animal feed and silage
- Household rubbish
- ‘Open’ worm farms

What you can do!

WRAP food scraps in newspaper before placing in bin.
CLEAN up any spill feed, decaying hay and silage.
MAKE compost in fly proof containers.
COVER open compost.
SPREAD grass clippings thinly over your garden.
Don’t leave them in a heap.
KEEP rubbish bin clean and the lid tightly closed.
DON’T leave untreated pet food lying around outside.
Wrap it in newspaper and place in bin.

Registered pesticides may be used to control both larvae (maggots) and adults. Flies.
However, the main objective is to eliminate breeding sites.

See table overleaf for a list of fly control products available to the public.
Facts about the stable fly

Stomoxys calcitrans (L)

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Other leaflets available

- Agriculture Western Australia: Flies and Manure 6/96
- Stable Fly Farmnote 101/94
- Environmental Health Guides: Fly Control
- Facts on Rats
- Fleas
- Mosquitoes
- Termite Prevention for Your Home

Further information

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- Stable Fly Farmnote 101/94
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