

Cluster Fly

How to identify cluster flies

This page will help you identify and get rid of **cluster flies** that have invaded your caravan holiday home. Cluster flies enter caravans in the Autumn, through gaps in the floors and walls, in search of a protected place to spend the winter months. They will leave in the spring to resume their normal **life cycle** (see below). They cause no damage and *will not* reproduce indoors but can be a real nuisance once they have gained entry. They often emerge into the living space through light fixtures, electrical outlets and so forth.

Cluster flies look like **house flies** except for some golden hairs behind the head. These hairs rub off easily so they may not always be present.

Unlike many other similar flies, cluster flies do not develop in manure or rubbish but rather are *parasites of earthworms*. Cluster fly larvae develop inside **earthworms** so they tend to be more of a nuisance problem in homes that are surrounded by healthy turf areas that support **large numbers of earthworms** such as pastures, golf courses, well-managed lawns, and of course caravan parks. Cluster flies do not harm earthworm populations.

Flies emerge from their earthworm hosts in the Autumn and congregate, often in large numbers, on nearby buildings including caravans. Flies that gain entry into wall and roof spaces can be a nuisance all winter especially when they migrate into the living space.

How to control cluster flies in caravan holiday homes

It is practically impossible to prevent flies from gaining entry as even the smallest of openings can allow flies to enter the caravan. Flies that do manage to gain entry can be controlled with fly sprays and smoke bomb type fumigators.