



Pest Control Technician Reveals  
the Amazing Inside-Secrets of  
Pest Control Companies

## FLY RIDDANCE

*Pest Control Technician Reveals the Amazing Inside-Secrets of Pest Control Companies*

By Joe Jackson

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## FORWARD

The information in this book is based on research performed by the author as a practicing Pest Control Technician certified by Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana.

All information herein is believed to be truthful and accurate on the date of publishing.

BUG RIDDANCE is not intended to provide legal advice and is written for the sole purpose of providing information.

*Always remember when it comes to handling and applying pesticides:  
**the label is the law!***

Misuse of any chemical for the treatment and eradication of a pest problem is a violation of state and federal regulations.

## INTRODUCTION

This book is all about protecting your family and saving you money! It's a "how-to" of information to help you keep your home free of...and your family safe from flies. In these pages you'll find methods to inexpensively, and easily, get rid of flies.

There is no reason why any person - other than those with restraining disabilities - cannot inspect, identify, and treat for these critters. And, the entire procedure should never take more than a few minutes at most!

There are a number of ways we can solve our pest problems. Some can be expensive. We have many choices between pest control companies and services that are available to us. The biggest problem we face is which company to choose...or whether to perform the function ourselves.

There are horror tales of pest control technicians who come into our homes and walk around spraying the whole house, with no effect on our insect problem. We sometimes hear later that the company is spraying only water, with no chemicals, in order to save money. That doesn't do us any good though, does it?

Are pest control companies honestly good at getting rid of these little critters? Or, are their treatments only temporary?

In this book, I'll tell you about some ways that you can take care of flies when they invade your home. You'll learn how to save big bucks by doing this yourself.

During the time I spent as an active pest control technician, I researched the problems with flies that we face in our lives. I studied pest control techniques so that I could pass on to you, the resident, ways to protect your family and save hundreds of dollars in pest control fees.

I'm going to tell you about these money-saving techniques...and how to create a personal pest control maintenance plan that will help to eliminate the threats to your household that these pests bring your way.

I'll also tell you where to get the chemicals that you need to protect yourself -- how to apply those chemicals -- what sort of price range those chemicals will be in...and how much you should reasonably expect to save with the techniques that I will teach you.

You will find these techniques simple, easy to perform, highly effective...and you can, literally, take that to the bank.

After proper application pesticides are not lethal to humans or pets. When you treat for pests on your own keep in mind that you are handling poisons. *Be responsible and safe.*

Use protective clothing; long sleeve shirt and pants, and shoes and socks. Also, always wear a breathing mask and eye goggles

You don't want exposure to bare skin, breathing or ingestion.

One other thing, if you decide to go ahead and hire a pest control company to do this work for you (as I'm sure some of you will), you'll have the arsenal of pest control weapons from this book to understand exactly what your technician is doing when he comes into your home.

You'll be able to determine within 20 minutes whether his treatment is working.

Pest control is not complicated. There is no real mystery to eradicating pests in your home. It does take some time, and I'll teach you how to accomplish the task in the minimum amount of time.

The most important thing about pest control is that you can save hundreds of dollars annually if you perform the function of pest identification and treatment yourself.

Pest control professionals charge according to the type of pest, the size of the building or the distance to the nest.

To give you an idea of costs, here the recent charges for treating flies from one company in particular:

Annual service - 4 visits. \$345.00. Covers everything but Carpenter Ants, bees, wasps, hornets, fleas, ladybugs and termites.

One time special services:

Gnats and flies - \$135.00.

During my research in the pest control field I learned when flies are the biggest problem.

With this knowledge in your arsenal you'll understand when to plan treatments for flies, and what treatments to plan.

You'll also know what the habits of the individual flies are so that you can place the treatments exactly where they need to be.

Why pay a pest control service hundreds of dollars when you can purchase the supplies for less than \$20, in most cases, and spend 15 - 20 minutes putting them in place? The place they need to be to get the pest you're treating for.

## GNATS

This section concentrates on gnats normally found inside buildings. But here are a couple of tips that I've found effective for repelling the majority of flying pests (including mosquitoes):

1. Avon's Skin So Soft Bath Oil works well when combined with water and used as a spray. I mix 5 caps full with a quart of water and find that it works well against the pesky gnats that insist on dive-bombing your face when you're outdoors.
2. Flying insects don't seem to like Bounce Fabric Softener. I take a sheet and hang it through a belt loop or hang it from a pocket. Gnats, flies, and mosquitoes stay away.

In my experience, four main species of gnat-type insects pester us. They are a problem mostly in the summer months as that is when they reproduce.

The four that I've encountered are:

- Fruit Fly
- Phorid Fly
- Fungus Fly
- Drain Fly.

I'll discuss all four, although you are probably not going to see the Drain Fly in your household.

The Fruit Fly lays its eggs in fermenting organic materials. This can be overripe fruit, the bottoms of trashcans...even in vegetables that are beginning to rot.

The female produces up to 500 eggs, which hatch within 24 hours. The young reach adulthood in five or six days. It doesn't take long for a large infestation to develop.

These guys are very small, growing no more than one-fifth-of-an-inch long. They are identifiable by their actions. Fruit Flies tend to stay in the air a lot. When they do land it is normally on a vertical surface, mostly on the point of an angle ... or in the fermenting

material itself.

The Phorid Fly (note that the name rhymes with horrid?) looks very much like the Fruit Fly. They are the same size and both are brownish in color. The Phorid Fly has very strong, well-developed legs for running.

Phorid Flies tend to land on horizontal surfaces and run around a lot. That is how you identify them. They are very fast runners and prefer not to spend time flying.

Phorid Flies reproduce in decaying organic materials. That is one step beyond the fermenting organic stuff that Fruit Flies are so fond of. The Phorid is a much nastier fly.

The best treatment for either one of these two species is to locate and remove the materials that they are laying their eggs in. You recognize the material by the swarm of these insects around it. If you disturb it, they'll come out in a cloud.

If the infestation is real heavy you can set off bombs in the house, but when you remove the material the flies quickly disappear.

The Fungus Fly lays its eggs in the fungus growing in the soil of potted plants in the home.

This fungus is often the result of over-watering. Be careful to back off the water for any new plants that you bring into the home.

A treatment for this gnat-type fly is available at most gardening stores. Just let them know that you need a fungus fly treatment for plants. Worst case: throw the plant away.

The Fungus Fly is a little smaller than the Fruit and Phorid Flies. It is also very thin. They rarely stray far from the infested plant.

Drain Flies are slightly larger than the Fruit and Phorid Flies. The football-shaped wings easily identify them. The wings are large and cover the body when at rest.

The Drain Fly, as the name implies, likes to breed in drains. This only occurs when the drain is not in use and the material on its inner surface starts to decay, or when water has been left to stand in the drain for a period of time. That is the reason you don't often find them in the home. Regular flushing of water down the drain is enough to keep these guys from laying their eggs.

If you do run across this fly in your home, look for the breeding ground near where you see them. The Drain Fly never flies far from where it was born and usually lands on the first surface it comes to once it reaches the adult stage and leaves the drain.

## **Other Flies**

Three other types of flies pester us in this country. I won't spend a lot of time on the identification but will briefly describe each one so that you know the difference in their habits.

The three species I'll talk about here are:

- Housefly (two types of this one: Common housefly and Little housefly)
- Blow Fly
- Cluster Fly.

The Common housefly grows up to five-sixteenths of-an-inch long. The Little housefly is the smaller of the two, about half the size of the Common housefly. Houseflies are grayish in color and are the most encountered flies in the household.

They lay their eggs in organic material that is rotting, fermenting or even only moist. This might be pet feces, piled grass cuttings and garbage - often they lay eggs in the dirty bottoms of trashcans.

The elimination procedure includes getting rid of the material in which they are breeding. Sanitation goes a long way in all pest control. Residual pesticides are effective when placed on surfaces where you see these flies resting. Electric bug lights are also effective.

The Blow Fly is much larger than the housefly. They grow up to a half-inch and have a metallic sheen to them. The color ranges from a bluish to a greenish to a yellow-brown.

You find these flies in the home when they wander in from outdoors. And the biggest problem they pose is their loud buzzing as they fly around the house. They are attracted by light and often head straight for a window.

They lay most of their eggs out-of-doors. They would much rather lay those eggs in some sort of meat. If meat is not available, though, they don't mind using animal manure, rotting plant life or garbage.

When these flies are abundant inside the building they are probably laying their eggs in a dead mouse, or something similar.

Rid yourself of this guy with sanitary practices. Clean away any pet feces in the yard and any dirt from garbage cans. Use residual pesticides where they want to rest, especially in the windows around the frame.

The Cluster Fly is about the same size as the Common housefly, and grayish in color. These flies are only a problem in the fall... occasionally through the winter and early spring.

Cluster Flies winter inside the walls of a building and in the attic. When the weather is cold they are dormant and out of sight. Anytime a warm day comes along they become active and begin to appear.

When they are active these flies tend to gather in bunches, usually around a light source, so that there is a "cluster" of them. Sometimes this "cluster" of flies is present in the fall just before the cold weather when they go into hibernation. They are usually not seen again until spring when they wake up with the increase in the temperature.

## MAINTENANCE PLAN IN A NUT SHELL

Control of flies is difficult and more a requirement for housekeeping activities than for pesticide application.

The goal of this section is to give you an organized process of inspection. You'll know exactly how to implement a system of pest control. And you'll know how the professionals do it.

In this section, I'll also tell you where you can get pesticides when you do need them and an idea of the prices you'll pay for them. The prices I'll give you will change over time, but I expect they are going to stay close to current day prices.

There are "hot spots" where flies are most likely found, but you might see them anywhere around the house.

During your first inspection put glue boards in the hot spots. These are in the kitchen, on the counter top, and around the trashcan. Try to put them where they are out of sight.

The glue boards are your helpers that work all the time trapping flies...and show you where the creatures are concentrated. Use them for indicators for what you need to do, clean up or treat with pesticide.

HINT: Each time you inspect a glue board, circle anything on it with an ink pen. That way you'll know what is new since the last inspection.

Replace the glue boards when the glue has collected a layer of dirt. They lose their effectiveness after a few months.

## **THE PROCESS OF INSPECTION**

Start around all the trash cans...it's the most likely place to find flies.

Most often your first indication that you have an infestation is when

you see them.

Look for fly activity along counter tops, and in any place where food is available.

It's a good idea to check around the outside. Blowflies especially like to lay their eggs in pet feces in the yard.

## **TECHNIQUES, CHEMICAL COST AND SOURCE**

Get pesticides at home builder supplies, hardware stores, and grocery stores. I prefer home builder suppliers as I find they usually have the largest selection.

The first step to controlling flies is housekeeping.

Inside the home, clean up any spills of sweet liquids immediately. Don't keep trash in the house, it starts rotting, and the odor attracts all flies.

Inspect the outside for feces and remove any that you find. Also, clean up any garbage that you see laying around.

If you need to use a chemical, you want one that leaves a residue on the treated surface that continues to work for up to four months. I like to use a concentrated chemical that I mix with water in a garden sprayer that has a fan spray capability. Already mixed sprays that come in cans work but I feel that the garden sprayer gives me better application.

I don't recommend spraying counter tops or around food and dishes in cabinets.

Before you start spraying large areas inside, test your mixture for staining. I've never run into a problem here but I do know of one technician that did.

You see the residual that we used left a powder behind when the water

from the mixture dried on the treated surface. Seems he treated a commercial account that had hardwood baseboards and the residual powder turned out to be visible on that particular wood.

He had to go back to the account later and wipe the powder from the baseboards because the customer didn't like the appearance.

Personally, I think that he mixed the solution too strongly. The label provides directions for mixing the chemical with water and gives a range of chemical amount that provides a variety of solution strength. *Remember: the label is the law.*

The stronger the mixture the heavier the residual powder. I never found a need to mix stronger than the weakest amount the directions provided for. That weaker mixture is highly effective. But I did know technicians who always used the strongest solution allowed by the label.

When you mix in compliance with the label, the solution is normally not harmful to pets though it might cause sickness sometimes. I recommend that you do your spraying when your pets can't see what you're doing, and let the application dry before you let the pet back into the area.

Pets do get curious and might decide to give the pesticide a taste test if they know it's there.

Spray around the outside areas where you clean anything up or notice any activity, spraying on the inside only when you see activity. Why have pesticides inside your house if you don't need it?

To treat for flies use traps along with the spray for best effectiveness. Granules and dust also succeed when placed directly on the spots where activity is concentrated.

Spray pesticides kill the insects within 20 minutes. The residuals take the longest as the insect picks the powder up on its legs as it travels through the treated area. Then when the insect cleans the powder off its legs it ingests the poison.

Chemical prices are normally not higher than \$20 and most often less

than \$10 for one or two treatments of your home.

During a fact-finding visit to local building supply stores, I found the following prices for the treatments you'll most use:

<b>Spray chemical (to mix).....</b>	<b>\$3.98 - \$10.97</b>
Glue boards.....	\$2.97 for 4
Granules for outside treatment.....	\$3.97 - \$6.97 a pound
Dust for outside treatment.....	\$3.87 - \$5.27
Outside spray pre-mix.....	\$3.97 a quart - \$7.47 a gallon

Compare these prices to what pest control services charge. Amazing what you'll save, isn't it? And you'll get a little exercise as you inspect your house too!

## SOME PARTING THOUGHTS

One important thing to remember when it comes to pesticides: **THE LABEL IS THE LAW!**

Always follow the instructions. They allow you to achieve the highest level of success in protecting your family.

I dedicate this book to saving you - and your family - health problems...and money. It details techniques easily used to protect your home and family from flies. There is no reason for you to spend hundreds of dollars on a service that takes less than a half-hour each month.

Pest control companies charge \$325.00 to \$400.00 for an annual service.

This annual service normally consists of only a quarterly visit by a technician. Consider that these four visits total no more than 60 minutes and you are paying over \$300 an hour for the program. Kind of high, huh?

At times, you may encounter the need for professional service. If you have a large infestation of flies, it may be beyond your ability to get it under control. The tools available to the professional include much stronger pesticide ingredients than you have access to.

At other times, you might suspect that you have an insect that is a greater danger to you and your family than what you normally find in the home. At these times, it makes sense to contract a pest service professional who is trained in identification of the different species.

There may even be those of you who just don't want to mess with a pest problem and prefer to have it done by professionals.

This is all a matter of personal choice and situational necessity. You can expect charges to range anywhere from \$75.00 to \$200.00 for a single visit from a pest control company.

Actual charges depend on the size of the building inspected and/or treated, the type of pest involved and the size of the insect population. For this type of service, you receive a 90-day guarantee... as a minimum.

If you do decide to hire the services of a pest control professional, make sure the service you select is a member of local, state and national pest control associations. That way they'll have the latest knowledge and technology available.

Make sure you completely understand what services the contract covers before you sign.

The technician will talk about the concept of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). It's a process for controlling pests by getting rid of the food, shelter and water that those pests need for survival. This process is highly effective.

Understand that IPM works best through a system of teamwork between the pest control technician and the resident. The technician periodically visits and treats - the resident provides housekeeping activity.

Here are some specific activities that should occur during the inspection and treatment. If they don't happen, question the quality of the service!

The first inspection takes a little while. I'd say up to an hour. After that first treatment, all following visits take a competent Pest Control Technician no longer than 20 to 30 minutes for a large house and usually around 15 minutes. A trained and experienced technician performs the process in a very short time.

Keep in mind that what I mean by IPM here is a total process and includes inspection and treatment for all pests most commonly found in the home.

Hot spots for roaches are the tropical areas. Those are around, and under, sinks, in laundry rooms, in furnace rooms, around the hot water heater and in the area of appliance machinery (where motors put off heat). Make sure the inspection includes these areas.

Rodents live anywhere in the walls, but usually stay near a food source. The technician needs to look for holes under cabinets and behind appliances in the kitchen.

Ants usually restrict themselves to the kitchen area also. The exception to this is the Carpenter Ant, which spreads throughout the structure. You find the Carpenter Ant in the attic or basement/crawlspace most often. Treatment for the Carpenter Ant is usually not included in the annual service contract and incurs an extra charge.

Spiders are all over the house. If you want treatment for them, the technician must spray with residual chemicals. The same goes for the crawling insects such as, Pillbugs Centipedes, Mites and Earwigs. These crawlers usually gather close to doorways.

The treatment for bees, wasps and hornets happens outside of the building. They rarely build their nests inside, too difficult for them to gain access.

Be aware that a proper inspection can't happen if the technician stays on his feet during the entire visit. In order to do a thorough job, he must get down and look under covered areas. This means two things: 1) You need to get items out of the way in preparation of the visit, 2) The technician has to get on his hands and knees on occasion.

If the only treatment that the technician performs is to spray chemical, he's robbing you, and/or his company!

First, if he is spraying for roaches or ants he is not doing a total job. In order to bring these insects under control a complete Integrated Pest Control Process is essential. That includes housekeeping, spraying with residual chemicals, and the use of baits! One of these applications alone is ineffective.

When there is a problem, baits have the most profound effect. Spraying is fine for all insects other than roaches and ants. And if there is no problem why have extra chemical lying around your house? You don't want any more of that stuff around your house than is necessary anyway. Do you?

Termites are another story altogether. The technician's inspection is a longer procedure here. He needs access to the basement or crawlspace and he must inspect the entire foundation.

Today's baiting techniques for termites are highly effective and guarantees are available for this service. It does take more involvement by the professionals though.

Your favorite pest control service should be more than happy to inform you about this process. Fees for termite services start around \$1,500 and range upward depending on the severity of the infestation.

Your personal pest control maintenance plan is as simple as performing the tasks in the following four paragraphs. Fifteen minutes each month should be all the time it takes you to do your inspection. Pest control is not a complicated activity.

In early spring, use a residual chemical around the outside foundation of your home. That type of application drastically reduces the number of invaders over the summer insect season. You'll find it well worth the effort.

Use granules, or a liquid spray application. Treat with granules every three months or with spray every two months.

Once a month, do a walk-through inspection of your home, looking for an increased number of insects and treat accordingly. Get down and look under sinks, around pipes, and inside the warm equipment areas of appliances.

Roaches are largely nocturnal so the nighttime is an especially good time for you to inspect for them. A flashlight will send them scurrying so be alert to movement in your peripheral vision.

With practice, you'll be able to spot movement out of the corner of your eye. By performing these activities yourself, you save the hundreds of dollars that pest control companies charge for annual service programs.

Pesticides are available at your local building supply store. Most of

the chemicals that you use on a regular basis are below \$10.00. Large infestations require a higher expenditure due to the need to purchase larger amounts of pesticides.

Ten bucks or less compared to \$75.00 to \$400.00. The choice is not a difficult one to make.

For more information on do-it-yourself pest control techniques please visit <http://www.bugsmiceratsnomore.com>.

Good luck, enjoy your savings...and your family's safety!