If you know what to do, you can avoid most pest problems in your home.

Follow these steps:

- Sanitize and keep your home clean.
- Exclude pests by sealing entry points.
- Control pests by trying non-chemical methods first, then using pesticides if necessary.
- Identify and monitor the pest.

Other pests in the ISCE Home Pest Management Series:

- Spiders
- Small Mammals
- Silverfish
- Scorpions
- Pantry Pests
- Fleas
- Cockroaches
- Carpenter Ants
- Ants
- New Other pests in the ISCE Home Pest Management Series:

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Identify:

Sanitize:

• Properly identify the pest. Fungus gnats are usually found near potted plants. Fruit flies are usually found near over-ripe or damaged fruits or spilled fruit juices. Drain flies are usually found around clogged or dirty drains. Here are some common small flies.

Control:

If small flies are a problem in your home...

Exclude:

• Do not buy over-ripe fruits or vegetables.
• Store fresh fruits and vegetables in the refrigerator or buy only what you can use within 1 to 2 weeks.
• Put fruit in a paper bag to ripen it. Seal the bag by folding over the top or clip with a clothes pin. You can use within 1 to 2 weeks.
• Store fresh fruits and vegetables in the refrigerator or buy only what you can use within 1 to 2 weeks.

Repair plumbing leaks:

• Examine drains often. Clean and clean the recyling bin regularly.
• Rinse recyclable items before storing them with boiling water.
• Once drains are clean, flush them with boiling water.
• Brush any accumulated organic matter out of drains with a stiff brush.
• Clean any accumulated organic mixture from drains.
• Clean toilets, sinks, showers and the floor.

Control:

• Inspection house plants weekly. Inspect house plants often. If flies remain a problem, hire a professional pest control service.
• Buy your home with the plants you nurture. Fungus gnats usually come from the nursery. Keep the nursery of the potted plant in a closed container and keep the container out of doors. Keep garbage in plastic bags and take it out several times a week.

Your home... If small flies are common...