

# Pesky, Irritating Flies Carry Many Millions of Disease Germs

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Although flies are carriers of disease in many parts of the world, they are little more than a public nuisance in Los Angeles County. However, there is always the "fitter" to consider and, to put it mildly, this so-called public nuisance can be extremely annoying to the residents of any community where flies are prevalent.

Intrinsically, the fly in Los Angeles County is no less dangerous than it ever was. Given the right kind of filth environment, it could spread such diseases as dysentery, typhoid fever, tuberculosis, infant diarrhea, and many others of an equally serious nature. That it doesn't is chiefly due to the fact that sanitation inspections and County ordinances have eliminated the most lethal of the disease reservoirs, including the open privy which is no longer permitted to exist in this area.

The county has its own particular problems nonetheless. Contiguous to residential areas are chicken, hog, and dairy ranches and where such business enterprises exist there are flies. These can be controlled by insecticides to some extent, but the fly is a hardy little creature and quickly develops an immunity to whatever substance is used. Ranchers, householders and others must therefore rely on the unremitting practice of good basic sanitation if flies are to be kept under control.

It is incontestable that animal manure serves as a first-rate breeding place for flies, but when refuse is left in yards or in dirty, loosely-covered garbage cans throughout a community these will do nearly as well. The common housefly sometimes travels as far as eight miles hunting for just such a haunt, and should disease germs be present the fly becomes an excellent vehicle of transmission.

The fly carries somewhere in the neighborhood of three to four million germs on its finely-haired body and legs and, in addition, leaves some of its germ-laden intestinal contents upon whatever it touches. As these organisms are known to live as long as 15 days within the fly's body, it is readily understandable why it is sometimes unhealthful to have many of them around.

Rarely does the fly leave enough germs behind to cause illness, however, unless permitted to wander over exposed

food, toys, or other articles that may find their way into the human mouth. Although one hasty landing is generally conceded to be of little consequence, if allowed to remain, or should the flies be numerous, the danger of disease is definitely present.

Now is the time to get rid of flies. For every one that is killed early in the spring it means that there will be many thousands less to get rid of later in the year. The breeding rate of the fly during hot summer days is truly phenomenal.

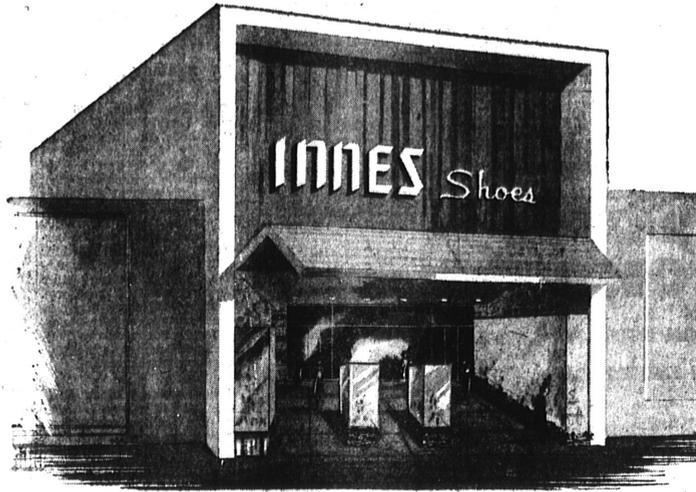
There is no sense in making guests out of pests, and there is nothing better than good sanitation to discourage flies. Hospitality in the form of manure piles, open garbage cans or litter, animal wastes, fallen fruit, or heaps of untreated garden compost should be denied them.

**Keep Home Clean**  
A public nuisance is a common nuisance. Everyone suffers, so whatever the problem may be, everyone must work to eliminate it. In fly control the solution to the nuisance is best accomplished by keeping the home and community as clean as is humanly possible. As a control measure, vigilant cleanliness simply cannot be surpassed.

A pamphlet on fly control will be mailed to anyone who sends a card of request to the Los Angeles County Health Department, 241 N. Figueroa Street, Los Angeles 12.

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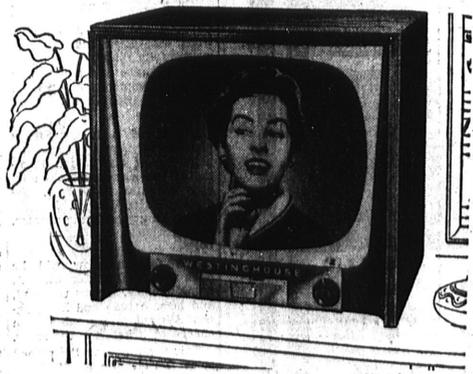
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