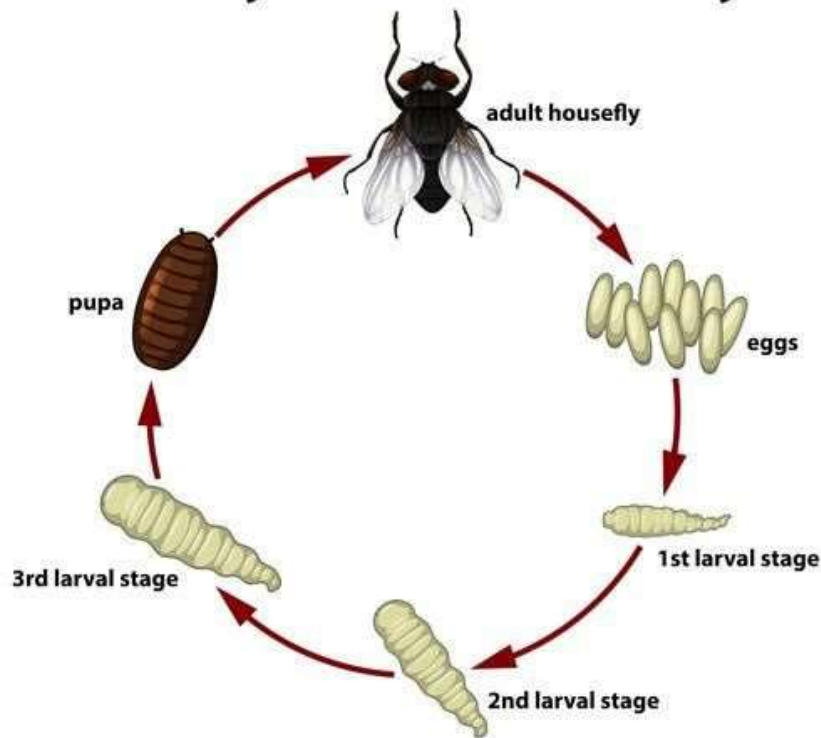




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# House Flies

## Life Cycle of a Housefly



The common housefly, known scientifically as *Musca domestica*, is a nonbiting fly. However, each one may carry more than 1 million bacteria that can transfer to food and surfaces.

## Insecticides

- Several sprays and insecticides can help deal with flies. While they can eliminate individual flies, there are more efficient ways to remove an infestation.
- Pyrethrin, a pesticide that is toxic to insects, can be bought as a spray to deal with adult flies. These sprays provide a temporary solution that could be useful in combination with other techniques.
- People using fly sprays or insecticides must take care to prevent direct contact with the skin or eyes and avoid inhaling them. Pyrethrin has low toxicity but can irritate the skin or trigger other mild symptoms.

## Health risks of houseflies

Some flies carry germs, such as bacteria and other infectious agents, which spread when they make contact with people or food. These germs may cause diseases and symptoms, such as:

- dysentery
- diarrhea
- typhoid fever
- cholera
- Trachoma
- Epidemic conjunctivitis
- Skin infections

