

# *HEALTHY COLORADO SCHOOLS*



## CLUSTER FLIES

You're used to swatting flies in the summer, but what are those flies you see in the fall and winter? Cluster flies make their debut in the autumn when they fly to the sunny sides of buildings in search of protected overwintering sites. They are not reproducing within the structure, but they do become active on warm days and crawl out of wall voids and attics in a confused attempt to go back outside.

Adult cluster flies are a little bigger than the common house fly and have crinkly golden hairs on the thorax. The larvae of these flies develop as parasites of certain species of earthworms. They are not a health hazard to people and they do not lay their eggs in human food.

To avoid problems in the future, be sure to caulk and seal all exterior openings – a good practice to prevent many pest problems. In the meantime, get out the fly-swatter!

*Keep Colorado schools pest free*