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As soon as the temperatures start to rise, fruit flies can begin showing up in your home uninvited. These pesky insects can quickly become a source of frustration as they hover around ripe fruits, vegetables, and even fermenting liquids. What they lack in size, they make up in numbers. Fruit flies can quickly multiply and take over your home in no time. Fortunately, a few DIY methods can help you eliminate these pesky flies. We'll explore how to create homemade fruit fly traps using apple cider vinegar and other household items, ensuring a swift and eco-friendly solution to help keep your living spaces free from these tiny invaders.Scientifically known as Drosophila melanogaster, fruit flies are tiny little flying insects that measure about 3-4 millimeters in length. They have a distinctive brownish-yellow body with red eyes and are drawn to ripe or fermenting fruits and vegetables. These tiny bugs lay their eggs near the surface of overripe fruits, providing their larvae with a nutrient-rich environment to grow. The eggs hatch within 24-30 hours, and the newly emerged fruit flies reach adulthood in just a few days. This rapid life cycle contributes to their ability to infest homes rapidly.There are various reasons why fruit flies may decide to reside in your home. A good food source like leftover fruits, vegetables, or juices on countertops or in trash bins provides the perfect breeding ground for these pests. Additionally, damp and dark spaces, like kitchen sinks and drains, attract fruit flies. These uninvited guests tend to stick around once they find something to eat, making it essential to get rid of them as quickly as possible before they multiply.Are you struggling with a fruit fly problem? We've got you covered. Some effective DIY fruit fly traps can help you promptly reduce and get rid of these annoying insects. One popular method is using common household items, such as apple cider vinegar, ripe fruit, and dish soap, to create traps to lure the fruit flies in. We'll go into more detail about how to make each fruit fly trap below.The apple cider vinegar fly trap is a commonly used and effective method for getting rid of fruit flies. To create this trap, you will need: A small bowl or jar Apple cider vinegar Dish soap Pour about half an inch of apple cider vinegar into a bowl or jar. Add a drop of dish soap to the container with vinegar. The dish soap will break the surface tension of the apple cider vinegar, causing the fruit flies to sink when they land on it. Cover the bowl or jar using a plastic wrap secured with a rubber band. Poke several small holes in the plastic wrap using a knife or fork. Ensure the holes are large enough for fruit flies to enter but small enough so they can't easily escape. Place the trap near areas where fruit flies are most active, like the kitchen or near the trash bin. The scent of the apple cider vinegar will attract the fruit flies, and once they enter the trap, they won't be able to escape the soapy solution.Using the fruit flies' attraction to ripe fruits against them can be effective. For this trap, you will need: A piece of overripe fruit (banana, peach, or any other ripe fruit) A cylindrical glass jar or plastic container Place the overripe fruit in the glass jar or plastic container. Use plastic wrap to cover the opening of the container and secure it with a rubber band. Poke several small holes in the plastic wrap using a knife or fork. Place the trap close to where the fruit flies are. The fruit flies will be lured by the scent of the ripe fruit and get trapped inside the container.This alternative fruit fly trap uses white vinegar instead of apple cider vinegar. You will need: White vinegar Dish soap A small bowl or cup Fill the bowl or cup with white vinegar. Add 3-4 drops of dish soap to the container with vinegar. Mix the solution of vinegar and soap gently. Place the trap near areas where fruit flies are congregating. Similar to the apple cider vinegar trap, fruit flies will be attracted to the scent of vinegar and fall right into your trap.Dealing with a fruit fly infestation can be irritating. Still, with these DIY fruit fly traps using apple cider vinegar and other everyday household items, you can effectively rid your home of these tiny invaders. In addition to setting these traps, remember to store any ripe fruits in your refrigerator and clean your kitchen surfaces regularly to prevent an infestation. Using these easy methods to trap fruit flies, you can return to enjoying your home without these annoying guests buzzing around. If you still have fruit fly problems or have been infested with other pests, get a free pest control estimate for prevention and treatment options. Looking for a simple and effective solution to eliminate fruit flies? Learn how to get rid of fruit flies with white vinegar and banish them from your home completely. Are fruit flies driving you crazy? Weve got you covered. Unlock the secrets of how to get rid of fruit flies with white vinegar and gain expert insights on how to avoid future infestations. Reclaim your space and enjoy a fly-free home with this white vinegar fruit fly trap. This white vinegar fruit fly trap will eliminate your problem in no time. (Photo: CC0 Public Domain / Pixabay - NatureFriend) You might already know that you can get rid of fruit flies with white vinegar. It is indeed a simple and effective remedy, and you only need a few more ingredients to make the trap. For this white vinegar fruit fly trap, youll need the following ingredients and materials: a shallow bowl, container, or cup 1 tbsp. white vinegar cup. apple juice a drop of liquid dish soap Instructions: Mix all the above items in your container and fill any remaining space with water, almost to the brim. Place the container next to the fruit that is attracting the flies. The odor of the white vinegar trap will quickly attract the little troublemakers. The soap decreases the waters surface tension so that the flies cannot simply land on the surface; instead, theyll fall through the liquid. Youll be shocked at how quickly you can get rid of fruit flies with white vinegar! Leaving ripe fruits out in the open for too long will attract fruit flies. (Photo: CC0 Public Domain / Pixabay LubosHouska) As far as pests go, it could be worse (imagine bed bugs, for example!). Fruit flies dont really do anything, but they are definitely annoying. They tend to invade in swarms and take over your kitchen. To understand how to get rid of fruit flies, its important to understand why they appear in the first place: During the warmer months, they are attracted by the scent of ripe fruit and come in through open windows. Food waste in garbage and compost bins is irresistible to those flying nuisances. Ripe bananas or damaged apples are just two of many optimal breeding grounds for fruit fly maggots. Its not uncommon to inadvertently bring fruit flies home with your produce in larval form, developed at the grocery store. With up to 400 eggs per laying female and a development cycle of just two weeks, the population can become a problem very quickly. To help prevent a fruit fly invasion before it starts, avoid leaving glasses of wine or fruit juice out in the open for too long. (Photo: CC0 Public Domain / Pixabay CongerDesign) Weve shown you how to get rid of fruit flies with white vinegar, and its pretty simple, but preventing a fruit fly invasion before it starts is much easier. There are a few simple measures that you can take to help minimize the risk: Eat or process fruit quickly; dont keep it around out in the open. Learn how to store apples, lemons, tomatoes, plums, and other fruits properly to prevent them from becoming overripe or spoiling. If you have more bananas than you can handle, try freezing your bananas to make delicious banana nice cream later. Or you could slice them and put them in the oven to make banana chips. Place extremely ripe or damaged fruit in the refrigerator, or simply turn them into something delicious, like vegan apple pie, homemade applesauce, or vegan lemon bars! Take out your garbage and compost more often during the warmest months of the year. Dont leave open bottles or glasses of wine or fruit juice out for too long. If possible, install screens on your windows. Dont store bananas or apples near other fruit, as this speeds up the ripening process. By following these tips, hopefully you wont need our vinegar fruit fly trap at all! ** Links to retailers marked with ** or underlined orange are partially partner links: If you buy here, you actively support Utopia.org, because we will receive a small part of the sales proceeds. More info. Do you like this post? Thank you very much for voting! Tags: Animals DIY Green Living Waste If youre dealing with an annoying fruit fly infestation in your home, youve probably heard about various home remedies to get rid of these pesky insects. One common solution that often comes up is using a combination of vinegar and dish soap. But does this concoction really work to kill fruit flies? Lets take a closer look.Fruit Flies and Their InfestationFruit flies are small, flying insects that are attracted to ripe or decaying fruits and vegetables. They multiply quickly, making them a nuisance to deal with. Fruit fly infestations can be frustrating, especially when they invade your kitchen or living spaces, hovering around your food and beverages.The Vinegar and Dish Soap TrapOne method that many people swear by to eliminate fruit flies is the vinegar and dish soap trap. This homemade trap involves combining vinegar and dish soap in a bowl or container and leaving it uncovered. The idea behind this trap is that the flies are attracted to the fruity scent of the vinegar, and when they come into contact with the mixture, the dish soap disrupts the surface tension of the liquid, causing the flies to sink and drown.The Science Behind the MethodTo understand why the vinegar and dish soap trap works, its important to know a bit about the science behind it. Fruit flies are attracted to the fermentation process that occurs when fruits and vegetables start to decay. The vinegar used in the trap mimics this process and lures the flies towards it.When the fruit flies land on the surface of the vinegar, the dish soap reduces the surface tension of the liquid. This disruption causes the flies to lose their ability to stay afloat and ultimately leads to their demise. The dish soap essentially breaks down the surface tension, trapping the flies and preventing them from escaping.Effectiveness of the Vinegar and Dish Soap TrapThe vinegar and dish soap trap can be quite effective in killing fruit flies. Many individuals have reported success in using this method to eliminate these pests from their homes. However, it is important to note that the trap may not be a foolproof solution in every case.Some fruit flies may be more resistant to the trap or might not be as attracted to the scent of vinegar as others. In such cases, additional measures may be necessary to fully eradicate the infestation. Its also important to remember that prevention is key when it comes to dealing with fruit flies.Preventing Fruit Fly InfestationsWhile the vinegar and dish soap trap can help get rid of existing fruit flies, taking preventive measures is equally important to avoid future infestations. Here are a few tips to keep fruit flies at bay:1. Keep your kitchen clean and free from any rotting or overripe fruits and vegetables.2. Store fruits and vegetables in sealed containers or in the refrigerator.3. Clean up spills and crumbs promptly, as these can attract fruit flies.4. Regularly empty and clean garbage bins, as they can serve as breeding grounds for fruit flies.In ConclusionIn summary, the vinegar and dish soap combination can be an effective tool in combating fruit fly infestations. The fruity scent of the vinegar attracts the flies, while the dish soap disrupts the liquids surface tension, causing them to drown. However, its important to remember that prevention plays a crucial role in keeping these pesky insects away. By maintaining a clean kitchen and practicing good hygiene, you can minimize the chances of a fruit fly infestation in your home. Yes, a mixture of vinegar and dish soap can kill flies, albeit under specific conditions and with varying degrees of effectiveness. The combination works by reducing the surface tension of the vinegar, allowing flies to become trapped and drown when they land on the liquid. However, its crucial to understand its limitations and proper application for optimal results. This article explores the science behind this common home remedy and offers a comprehensive guide to effective fly control. Do you like this article? The Science Behind the Soap and Vinegar Fly TrapThe principle is simple: flies are attracted to the sweet scent of vinegar, particularly apple cider vinegar. When they land to feed, the added dish soap breaks the surface tension. Normally, water (or vinegar) has high surface tension, allowing smaller insects like flies to walk on it. The soap reduces this, making it easier for the flies to sink and become trapped. Without the soap, flies could potentially land, feed, and escape without incident.Limitations of Vinegar and Dish SoapWhile a helpful supplementary method, relying solely on vinegar and dish soap is rarely a complete solution for a significant fly infestation. It primarily targets adult flies and doesnt address the underlying causes of the infestation, such as breeding sites and food sources. Moreover, its effectiveness can be diminished by factors like the type of fly, the concentration of the mixture, and the surrounding environment.Building a DIY Vinegar and Dish Soap Fly TrapHeres a step-by-step guide to creating your own fly trap:Materials: Apple cider vinegar, dish soap (unscented works best), a jar or shallow dish, and optionally, plastic wrap.Preparation: Pour a small amount of apple cider vinegar into the jar or dish (about an inch).Adding the Soap: Add a few drops of dish soap just enough to create a thin film on the surface of the vinegar. Overdoing it can deter flies.Optional Enhancement: Cover the opening of the jar with plastic wrap and poke small holes in it. This further traps the flies.Placement: Place the trap near areas where flies are frequently seen, such as near fruit bowls, garbage cans, or windows.Maintenance: Replace the mixture every few days, or when it becomes visibly full of flies or contaminated.Beyond the Trap: Addressing the Root CauseThe vinegar and dish soap solution should be considered just one element of a multi-pronged approach to fly control. Its crucial to identify and eliminate the source of the fly infestation. This could involve:Proper Sanitation: Regularly cleaning up spills, crumbs, and other food debris.Garbage Management: Keeping garbage cans tightly sealed and emptying them frequently.Fruit Fly Prevention: Storing fruits and vegetables properly, especially those prone to overripening.Drain Cleaning: Cleaning drains regularly to remove organic matter that attracts drain flies.Alternative Fly Control MethodsBeyond vinegar and dish soap, consider these alternative methods:Fly Swatters: A classic and effective way to eliminate individual flies.Fly Paper: Sticky traps that catch flies as they land.Electronic Fly Zappers: Devices that attract and kill flies with an electric shock.Professional Pest Control: Consulting with a pest control professional for severe infestations.FAQs About Vinegar and Dish Soap for Fly ControlFAQ 1: What type of vinegar works best?Apple cider vinegar is generally the most effective due to its sweet, fermented scent that strongly attracts flies. White vinegar can also be used, but it may be less appealing.FAQ 2: Does the type of dish soap matter?Unscented dish soap is recommended. Strongly scented soaps can repel flies, diminishing the traps effectiveness. Avoid dish soaps containing strong citrus or floral fragrances.FAQ 3: How often should I replace the vinegar and soap mixture?Replace the mixture every 2-3 days, or sooner if it becomes visibly dirty or full of dead flies. The vinegar can lose its attractiveness over time.FAQ 4: Will this method work on all types of flies?Its most effective on fruit flies and gnats. Larger flies, such as house flies, may be less attracted to the vinegar.FAQ 5: Can I use sugar or honey instead of vinegar?While sugar or honey can attract flies, they dont offer the same trapping mechanism as vinegar. Vinegars acidity also contributes to the flies demise. The vinegar and soap combination is the key for this specific method.FAQ 6: How much dish soap should I add?A few drops are sufficient just enough to break the surface tension. Too much soap can create a soapy film that repels flies. You should barely notice the soap in the vinegar.FAQ 7: Is this method safe for pets and children?While the vinegar and dish soap mixture is generally considered safe, its best to keep it out of reach of pets and small children. Ingesting large quantities could cause stomach upset.FAQ 8: Why isnt my vinegar and dish soap trap working?Several factors could be at play: the type of vinegar, the type of soap, the ratio of vinegar to soap, the presence of competing food sources, and the type of fly. Ensure you are using apple cider vinegar and unscented dish soap in the correct proportions. Also, check for other sources of attraction, such as overripe fruit.FAQ 9: Can I add essential oils to the mixture?Some essential oils, like lavender or peppermint, are known to repel flies. Adding these to the mixture may counteract its effectiveness.FAQ 10: Will this method work outdoors?The vinegar and dish soap method can be used outdoors, but its effectiveness may be reduced due to environmental factors like wind and rain. Stronger fly control methods may be necessary for outdoor infestations.FAQ 11: Does this method kill the flies instantly?No, the flies dont die instantly. They become trapped in the liquid and eventually drown.FAQ 12: How can I prevent fly infestations in the first place?The best prevention is good sanitation. This includes promptly cleaning up spills, keeping garbage cans tightly sealed, storing food properly, and regularly cleaning drains. Preventing flies from entering your home through screens and sealed windows is also important.Watch this awesome video to spice up your cooking! Flies buzzing around your home are more than just annoying; theyre unhygienic. The search for a quick and easy solution often leads to DIY fly trap recipes, and the combination of vinegar and dish soap is one of the most commonly touted. But does this method actually work, and if so, how effectively? This article will delve into the science behind this popular remedy, explore alternative fly control methods, and help you determine the best approach for eliminating those pesky invaders. Understanding the Appeal of DIY Fly TrapsDIY fly traps hold a certain allure. They promise a simple, inexpensive solution using readily available household items. The idea of creating an effective fly trap with just vinegar and dish soap is appealing because it avoids the need for potentially harmful chemicals found in commercial pesticides. The concept is simple: attract the flies, trap them, and eliminate them. But the effectiveness of this approach hinges on several factors.The Promise of a Natural SolutionMany homeowners are increasingly concerned about the environmental impact and potential health risks associated with traditional pest control methods. This has led to a surge in interest in natural and DIY alternatives. Vinegar, a common household staple, is often perceived as a safe and eco-friendly option. Dish soap, another everyday item, adds to the perceived harmlessness of the trap.Cost-Effectiveness and AccessibilityCompared to professional pest control services or expensive fly traps, the vinegar and dish soap method is incredibly affordable. Both ingredients are typically already present in most households, making it a readily accessible solution for immediate fly control. This low barrier to entry is a significant factor in its widespread popularity.The Science Behind the Vinegar and Dish Soap Fly TrapThe theory behind using vinegar and dish soap as a fly trap revolves around the principle of attraction and entrapment. Flies are attracted to the sweet and fermented scent of vinegar, mistaking it for rotting fruit, a common food source. The dish soap, added to the vinegar, acts as a surfactant, reducing the surface tension of the liquid.Attraction: The Role of VinegarFlies, particularly fruit flies, are drawn to the acetic acid present in vinegar. This acid mimics the scent of fermenting fruits and vegetables, signaling a potential food source. The stronger the vinegars scent, the more likely it is to attract flies from a wider area. Apple cider vinegar is often recommended due to its particularly enticing aroma for fruit flies.Entrapment: The Function of Dish SoapThe dish soap plays a crucial role in the traps effectiveness. By reducing the surface tension of the vinegar, the soap prevents flies from being able to stand on the liquids surface. When a fly lands on the mixture, it quickly sinks and becomes trapped. Without the dish soap, the fly could simply land on the surface, feed, and fly away.Does it Actually Work? Examining the EvidenceWhile the vinegar and dish soap fly trap can catch flies, its effectiveness is often limited and depends on several variables. The type of fly, the concentration of vinegar and dish soap, and the presence of other food sources can all influence its success. In some cases, it may only catch a small number of flies, leaving the majority of the infestation untouched.Factors Affecting the Effectiveness of the TrapSeveral factors can influence how well a vinegar and dish soap fly trap works. Understanding these variables is crucial for optimizing its performance or determining if alternative methods are necessary.Type of Fly: Fruit Flies vs. House FliesThe vinegar and dish soap trap is generally more effective against fruit flies than house flies. Fruit flies are specifically attracted to the fermenting scent of vinegar, while house flies are more drawn to decaying organic matter and garbage. Therefore, the trap may need to be modified or supplemented with other methods to effectively target house flies.Concentration and Type of VinegarThe concentration and type of vinegar used can significantly impact the traps effectiveness. Apple cider vinegar is often preferred due to its stronger aroma, but other types of vinegar, such as white vinegar, can also be used. Experimenting with different concentrations may be necessary to find the optimal balance for attracting flies.The Right Amount of Dish SoapThe amount of dish soap used is also crucial. Too much soap can repel flies, while too little may not effectively reduce the surface tension of the liquid. A few drops of dish soap are typically sufficient for a standard-sized trap.Competing Food SourcesThe presence of other food sources can significantly reduce the traps effectiveness. If flies have access to readily available food, such as overripe fruit, open garbage cans, or spills, they may be less likely to be attracted to the vinegar trap. Eliminating these competing food sources is essential for maximizing the traps success.Environmental ConditionsEnvironmental factors such as temperature and humidity can also influence the activity of flies and the effectiveness of the trap. Flies are generally more active in warmer temperatures, which can increase the traps catch rate.Alternative Fly Control MethodsWhile the vinegar and dish soap fly trap can be a useful tool in controlling fly populations, its often not a complete solution. Combining it with other fly control methods can significantly improve results.Sanitation: The First Line of DefenseMaintaining good sanitation is the most effective way to prevent and control fly infestations. This includes promptly cleaning up spills, properly disposing of garbage, and keeping food preparation areas clean and free of food debris.Fly Swatters and TrapsTraditional fly swatters and commercial fly traps can be effective for killing individual flies or trapping larger numbers. Flypaper, sticky traps, and electronic fly zappers are all options to consider.Insecticides: When NecessaryIn cases of severe infestations, insecticides may be necessary. However, its important to use insecticides responsibly and follow all label instructions carefully. Consider using natural or organic insecticides as a safer alternative to synthetic chemicals.Professional Pest ControlFor persistent or widespread fly infestations, professional pest control services may be the best option. Pest control professionals have the knowledge, experience, and tools to effectively identify and eliminate fly populations.Step-by-Step Guide to Creating a Vinegar and Dish Soap Fly TrapIf you decide to try the vinegar and dish soap fly trap, heres a simple step-by-step guide:Gather your materials: Youll need a small bowl or jar, apple cider vinegar (or white vinegar), and dish soap.Pour vinegar into the container: Fill the container with about an inch or two of vinegar.Add dish soap: Add a few drops of dish soap to the vinegar. You only need a small amount.Gently stir: Gently stir the mixture to combine the vinegar and dish soap. Avoid creating excessive bubbles.Place the trap: Place the trap in an area where youve seen flies.Monitor and replace: Check the trap regularly and replace the mixture as needed.Optimizing Your Fly Control StrategyTo effectively control flies, its important to adopt a comprehensive approach that combines multiple methods.Identify the source: Determine the source of the fly infestation and eliminate it if possible.Implement sanitation practices: Maintain good sanitation to prevent flies from breeding and feeding.Use a combination of traps: Use a variety of fly traps to target different types of flies.Consider professional help: If youre unable to control the fly infestation on your own, consider contacting a pest control professional.Debunking Common Fly Control MythsThere are many myths surrounding fly control. Lets debunk a few common ones:Myth: Flies are only a problem in the summer. Flies can be a problem year-round, especially in warmer climates.Myth: A clean house wont attract flies. While cleanliness is important, flies can still be attracted to even the cleanest homes.Myth: All fly traps are equally effective. Different fly traps are designed to target different types of flies and may vary in effectiveness.The Final Verdict: Is Vinegar and Dish Soap Enough?While the vinegar and dish soap fly trap can be a helpful tool for catching some flies, its unlikely to be a complete solution for controlling fly infestations. Its effectiveness is limited by factors such as the type of fly, the presence of competing food sources, and environmental conditions.For optimal fly control, its best to combine the vinegar and dish soap trap with other methods, such as sanitation, fly swatters, commercial fly traps, and, if necessary, insecticides or professional pest control services. A comprehensive approach is the most effective way to eliminate flies and prevent future infestations. Remember, prevention is key.Ultimately, the effectiveness of any fly control method depends on understanding the specific fly species youre dealing with and addressing the underlying causes of the infestation. By combining the vinegar and dish soap trap with other strategies, you can create a fly-free environment in your home.FAQ 1: Does a vinegar and dish soap mixture actually attract and kill flies?The common claim that a vinegar and dish soap mixture effectively attracts and kills flies is largely a myth. While flies are attracted to sweet, fermenting smells, the typical vinegar and dish soap concoction doesnt reliably replicate this. The vinegar might draw some fruit flies, but the dish soap primarily serves to break the surface tension of the liquid.This broken surface tension, in theory, causes flies that land on the mixture to sink and drown. However, many flies are perfectly capable of landing and taking off again before this happens. The effectiveness is inconsistent and often significantly less than advertised, making it an unreliable primary method for fly control.FAQ 2: Why do some people report success with the vinegar and dish soap trap?Perceived success with vinegar and dish soap fly traps is often due to other factors contributing to fly reduction. For instance, eliminating the source of attraction, such as overripe fruit or uncleaned spills, can dramatically decrease the fly population. The vinegar trap then appears effective simply because the flies were already diminishing.Another factor is the type of fly. Fruit flies, attracted to fermentation, might be lured in smaller numbers. However, house flies, with different feeding habits, are far less likely to be consistently caught by this method. Sporadic catches can create the illusion of success, especially when comparing the traps contents to the previous presence of flies.FAQ 3: What types of vinegar are most likely to attract flies to a trap?Apple cider vinegar is generally considered the most effective type of vinegar for attracting flies. Its sweet, fermented aroma is more appealing to fruit flies and other small flying insects compared to white vinegar or other varieties. The specific compounds produced during apple cider fermentation mimic the smells of rotting fruit, a key attractant for these pests.While other vinegars might catch a fly or two, apple cider vinegar stands out due to its more potent and attractive scent profile. Even then, supplementing it with a piece of overripe fruit or a small amount of sugar can further enhance its allure and improve the traps overall effectiveness, even if still not as reliable as commercial options.FAQ 4: How does dish soap help in a fly trap, and why is it necessary?Dish soap is added to fly traps primarily to break the surface tension of the liquid. Water molecules are naturally attracted to each other, creating a skin on the surface. Flies can often land on this skin without sinking. By adding dish soap, the surface tension is reduced, making it easier for flies to become submerged.Without dish soap, flies may be able to land on the liquid, feed, and then fly away. The soap is intended to trap them, preventing escape. However, as noted before, many flies are still able to escape due to their light weight and ability to quickly take flight before the soaps effect takes hold.FAQ 5: What are more effective alternatives to the vinegar and dish soap fly trap?Several more effective fly control methods exist. These include commercial fly traps, which use scientifically formulated attractants and sticky surfaces to capture flies more reliably. Flypaper strips are also a simple and effective solution, particularly for larger fly populations.Beyond traps, sanitation plays a crucial role. Regularly cleaning up spills, disposing of overripe fruit, and emptying garbage cans can eliminate breeding grounds and food sources. Furthermore, insect screens on windows and doors can prevent flies from entering your home in the first place, providing a proactive approach to fly control.FAQ 6: How often should a vinegar and dish soap fly trap be changed?The frequency of changing a vinegar and dish soap fly trap depends on several factors, including the number of flies caught, the level of debris in the mixture, and the evaporation rate of the liquid. Generally, its recommended to change the trap every few days to a week for optimal performance.If the trap becomes filled with dead flies or debris, its less effective at attracting new flies and the smell may become unpleasant. Similarly, if the liquid evaporates significantly, the trap may become less effective at drowning the flies. Regular maintenance ensures that the trap remains appealing and functional for as long as possible.FAQ 7: Can the vinegar and dish soap mixture attract other insects besides flies?While the primary intention is to attract flies, a vinegar and dish soap mixture can also attract other insects. Fruit flies are the most common target, but the sweet, fermented smell of vinegar can also draw in gnats and certain types of moths. The dish soap isnt selective and will affect any small insect that lands in the mixture.However, its important to note that the effectiveness of the trap for insects other than flies, particularly fruit flies, is variable. Some insects may be attracted to the sweet scent but are less likely to be trapped by the dish soap. Therefore, specialized traps or methods may be necessary to address specific insect infestations beyond flies. We may receive a commission on purchases made from links. How it worksOther methodsFruit fly trapFlies love a good trap. They can't resist a well-scented and well-designed trap either indoors or outdoors. There are a few ways to create traps for flies depending on what kind of flies you hope to remove from your indoor and outdoor spaces. It seems rather basic and slightly archaic, but using dish soap to kill flies has been a go-to for irritated homeowners since the viscous detergent hit the grocery store shelves. When diluted with water or vinegar, the properties of the dish soap stick to the fly's legs and cover the insect's wings with a soapy film. If the dish soap trick didn't work don't worry. There are still plenty of fly elimination methods to try. A glass jar that is at least half full of vinegar and sugar at about a one-to-one ratio thoroughly mixed with a good squeeze of dish soap will draw a large swath of flying insect species. You can roll a piece of white paper into a cone and put that into the jar with the narrow part of the cone facing down or cover the jar in plastic wrap with holes. Make sure the holes are big enough for the flies to find and crawl into but not large enough for them to fly out. Apple cider vinegar has a slightly sweet aroma that naturally attracts flying pests. Placed in a shallow bowl, it will draw tiny gnats and fruit flies that skitter around your fruits and vegetables left out on the counter.For larger gnat and fruit fly issues, you can create a homemade trap using apple cider vinegar as bait with an inverted soda bottle. To create an apple cider vinegar fly trap:Clean a plastic liter bottle of soda.Make a cut around the soda bottle about an inch belowwhere the neck tapers. This will create a funnel when the cut top of the soda bottleis inverted.Pour in vinegar to a depth of 1 to 2 inches.Turn the top of the bottle into a funnel by inverting intothe bottom of the soda bottle. A spray bottle filled with vinegar can be a good first layer of attack on flies on a porch or patio. If you are a good shot, the vinegar will not only take out the fly but cover it with a fine mist of liquid that its wings and legs can't easily remove. The fly that gets a good dousing of straight vinegar will suffocate and be otherwise maimed from its encounter with the household cleaner.Another bonus of shooting at flies with a stream of vinegar is that it will leave tiny attractive puddles that will lure flies to land. Once their feet touch the vinegar, it can spread to their wings and cause them to falter in their flying abilities. To kill fruit flies, you need a smaller trap. You can also use apple cider vinegar for fruit flies. Fruit flies are often called vinegar flies because of their attraction to the acidic liquid.Fruit flies will fall into a baby food jar or a small, narrow glass container half filled with apple cider vinegar and a dollop of dish soap. If they are difficult to catch, drill holes in the top of the small jar you are using so they can't land and flit away. The dish soap should float on the surface so it comes in immediate contact with the fruit flies' legs, rendering its flying abilities useless.Orkin: Apple Cider Vinegar Fruit Fly Traps Although they can be a nuisance, fruit flies are something many people encounter in their homes.They are typically attracted to fruit and other sugary substances, so the best thing to do when you spot fruit flies is to throw away old fruit and vegetables that are decaying. But if that still doesn't do the trick, there are a few easy homemade traps that will get rid of the pest. These DIY traps take mere minutes to make and can be assembled using supplies you likely already have on hand.Ben McAvoy is the founder of Insectek Pest Solutions, a pest control company in Arizona.Timothy Wong is the technical director of M&M Pest Control, an environmentally safe pest control company in Long Island City, N.Y. One of the most common methods for trapping fruit flies is with apple cider vinegar and soap. The vinegar serves as bait because fruit flies love its fermented smell. "The soap breaks up the surface tension so any fruit fly that lands for a drink will fall into the liquid and wont be able to escape," says Timothy Wong, technical director of M&M Pest Control. Pour 1/2 cup of apple cider vinegar into a container.Add 1 to 2 drops of liquid soap to the vinegar.Cover the container with plastic wrap or aluminum foil and secure it with a rubber band or tape.Use a toothpick to poke a few small holes in the plastic wrap or foil.If fruit flies aren't attracted to the vinegar, first check for alternative food sources that could be distracting them. The vinegars type and level of concentration could also be a factor. "Regular white vinegar is going to be less effective than apple cider vinegar, red wine vinegar, or balsamic vinegar," says Ben McAvoy of Instectek Pest Solutions. "The higher the concentration of vinegar, the more attractive the trap will be." Reduce the amount of water and soap to increase the concentration. Another easy way to trap fruit flies is with a plastic bottle. "This funnel design works well for a lot of DIY bug traps because once theyre inside, their instinct is to climb up the edges of the bottle instead of flying out of the center," says Wong. Carefully poke or drill 3 to 4 small holes into the plastic cap.With the cap still on, cut off the top third of the plastic bottle and flip it upside down, forming a funnel.Add 1/2 cup of apple cider vinegar or fruit scraps to the bottom of the bottle.Secure the funnel in place with tape, making sure there are no gaps around the edges. This trap uses the same principles as the previous trap, but is handy to know in case you don't have a plastic bottle handy. The fruit flies go into the funnel (in this case the paper cone) and then get trapped in a closed container (the jar), says Wong. Roll a sheet of paper into a cone and place it tip-side down in your jar, leaving about 2 inches of space between the tip of the cone and the bottom of the jar.Snip the tip of the cone to create a small opening for the fruit flies to get in.Add 1/2 cup of apple cider vinegar or fruit scraps to the bottom of the jar.Set the paper cone funnel over the jar, making sure there are no gaps around the edges. If you don't have the necessary materials to DIY a fruit fly trap or would rather purchase one, countertop bait traps like the Terro Fruit Fly Trap are the most effective. This is because they use food-based attractants like vinegar and fermented fruit. "Theyre basically upgraded versions of the DIY traps," says Wong. The most cost-effective option, though, are sticky traps. "Theyre usually yellow in color, which fruit flies are attracted to, and once they land on one, the fruit flies get stuck in the glue," says Wong. "It will also catch other flying pests like fungus gnats and houseflies. Another shoppable option is UV light traps, which are similar to sticky traps because they can catch a range of flying insects."If warmer temperatures have resulted in an uptick of flies in and around your home, youre probably looking for easy solutions to get rid of them! Many household items can help eliminate unwanted pests, including purposeful vinegar. But how does vinegar keep flies away?Flies are mainly attracted to rotten fruit, garbage cans, and rotting plant debris. To keep flies away, you can make a fly trap by mixing vinegar with juice, dish soap, honey, rotten fruit, or sugar. The smell of boiling malt vinegar will also keep flies at bay.The most common flies you find around your house are fruit flies, and once they start an infestation, it can be hard to stop. Keep reading to learn more about how to use vinegar to keep flies away for good! * This post contains affiliate links. Composition with vinegar and lemon on table. Space for textFlies can be found year-round but are most common during late summer and early fall because of seasonal crops. But just how can you get rid of them?Theres a chance youve heard the saying, you can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar, but it doesnt ring true. You can use honey to keep flies away (more on that in a bit), but vinegar proves to be the champion between the two!Vinegar is a fantastic deterrent to keep flies away, and they will steer clear wherever they get a hint of the scent of vinegar.But, whats so great about vinegar? A hungry fly can find a drop of vinegar reasonably quickly, making it an excellent way to entice the pest. The hungrier the fly, the quicker they will go after the vinegar.In addition, vinegar, or acetic acid, is the final part of the fermentation process in fruit, which is why fruit flies are attracted to vinegar.Fruit flies generally enter our homes when we go in and out, take a ride on fresh produce, and find holes in window screens.Unfortunately for us, fruit flies have a great sense of smell and can find nearly anything in your home.There are several methods when using vinegar to keep flies away. As a reminder, you sometimes have to try more than one technique before you have success.Persistence is vital when eliminating flies, so try to be patient during the process. Following a few simple steps will help you rid your house of the pesky intruders.Before going deeper, you may want to check out our piece on the 7 places that flies lay eggs in your home!Dont worry. You dont have to use your best juice for this one. First, get a dish and add white grape juice and vinegar with laundry detergent.Next, cover the dish with plastic wrap and create holes for entry.You can also put the solution in a squirt bottle and spray flies directly.Youre likely not surprised that flies are attracted to juice. Have you ever been sitting outside and found one doing the backstroke in your cup?With this trap, you will lure the flies in with its sweet smell but prevent them from getting out!One of the most straightforward solutions to keeping flies away is to create a vinegar trap. with soap!First, fill a small dish with apple cider vinegar and dish soap and then cover with plastic wrap. Next, you will want to make small holes in the wrap and secure it with a rubber band.The flies will be able to get into the trap and be attracted to it because of the apple cider vinegar, but not out. Clean it out once your trap is full, and make a new one if you still find flies.You also want to ensure the trap is in areas where flies are spotted. You may have to move the trap around before you have success.Finally, while its easy to create one yourself, you can also try theRSVP International Ceramic Fruit Fly Trap. First, fill up the bottom with vinegar, and then watch as the flies enter through the stainless-steel lid but cant find their way out. Its brilliant!Its no secret that flies are attracted to rotten fruit, but think twice before throwing away that rotten banana. Even better are rotten mangoes!Flies are very attracted to mangoes, and therefore you will have better luck with the exotic fruit.First, add vinegar to a jar and drop the rotten fruit inside. Next, you will roll up a piece of paper into a cone shape and then insert the paper into the jar. Finally, the flies will be able to access the rotten fruit but will not make their way out.You will want to ensure the paper is securely fitted at the top of the jar to avoid an escape route for the flies.Apple Cider Vinegar attracts flies, but malt vinegar encourages them to go away. Flies cant stand the strong smell of malt vinegar.All you have to do is boilHeinz Malt Vinegar, and the flies will be knocking down the door to get out. You can carefully move the pot to the infested room if the problem isnt in your kitchen.The smell for you might be a little strong, but sending the flies on their way is worth it. While malt vinegar isnt for regular cleaning, it does a superb job at ridding your house of flies.Like rotten produce, mixing sugar and vinegar will entice flies. You can either make a trap or use a premade one and add the sugar and vinegar.Ensure you securely cover the container to ensure flies cant escape. Adding a rubber band around plastic wrap provides additional security.The combination of sweetness will undoubtedly attract the flies that have decided to call your house a home.Drains and sinks are prime spots to find flies. Flies thrive in damp, moist areas, and your bathroom has plenty of opportunities.First, create a mixture of one cup vinegar, half cup baking soda, and half cup salt. Next, pour the substance directly into infested drains.A few hours later, pour boiling water down the drain. The mixture and hot water are like a secret sauce to eliminate flies.In addition to helping eliminate flies, it will also eliminate any dissolve built up in your drain.Unfortunately, pouring bleach down the drain wont solve your issue. It would be best if you broke up the debris sitting along your pipes. So, while bleach seems like a viable option, avoid it while eliminating flies.Finally, pouring vinegar down your kitchen sink can help break down any food debris left behind. Ensure you dont leave food in the sink and always run the garbage disposal. If you dont have a garbage disposal, never let food go down the drain.Now, comes the honey. Finally, on the list of ways to use vinegar to keep flies away is mixing it with honey.As with other traps, grab a small dish, add the honey (you can also mix sugar in), and add some apple cider vinegar. Next, wrap the top with cellophane and poke holes with a toothpick or fork.The sweet smell will be irresistible to flies, and once they go for a taste, they will get stuck. Since sugar and honey can also attract ants, ensure you monitor the trap, so you dont cause an infestation of another type.Luckily, vinegar does an excellent job at keepingantsaway, too.Flieshave a pesky way of entering your home, however, there may be undetected ways that have flown under your radar.As with any pest, preventing future infestations is crucial. While you may get rid of the current problem, it doesnt mean they wont come back.Following these steps will reduce the chances of a recurrence of flies!You can take a look at our full guide on how flies get into your house here.Flies can easily make their way into your home through any cracks in your foundation. For example, if you notice an uptick of flies inside, walk around the perimeter of your home looking for entry points.Even the tiniest of gaps can allow access, so checking every crevice is vital. The excellent news is that sealing cracks and holes will prevent other pests from entering.According to Colorado State University, we dont usually see flies in their larvae state which consists of pale, legless maggots. (Lovely, right?)However, flies can lay their eggs in the cracks of your home and leave behind these larvae to grow into adult flies.As you are filling in holes, look inside for any evidence of larvae or flies. Its an excellent opportunity to eliminate them before they make their way into your home.Youve heard of like a moth to a flame. Well, the same is true about flies and standing water. Flies need moisture to breed and can easily find it in your backyard.Fruit fliescan reproduce anywhere there is moist organic matter, so you will also find them around sinks and drains inside your home.If youve noticed an uptick of flies, take a walk around your house to see if you unknowingly have standing water. If left alone, play pools, empty pots, and other bins can be a bree

KeyWhile vinegar traps are effective at capturing existing fruit flies, preventing future infestations is crucial for long-term control.Inspect and discard overripe produce: Regularly check your fruits and vegetables for signs of overripeness and discard any that are starting to rot.Clean up spills immediately: Wipe up any spills of sugary liquids or fruit juices immediately to prevent attracting fruit flies.Keep your sink clean: Regularly clean your kitchen sink and drain to remove any food debris that could attract fruit flies.Store fruits and vegetables properly: Store fruits and vegetables in the refrigerator or in airtight containers to prevent them from becoming overripe and attracting fruit flies.Empty your garbage frequently: Empty your garbage can regularly, especially if it contains food scraps.Clean your recycling bins: Rinse out cans and bottles before placing them in recycling bins to remove any sugary residue.Additional Strategies for Fruit Fly ControlWhile vinegar is a powerful tool, consider these complementary strategies for comprehensive fruit fly management:Sticky Traps: Commercial sticky traps can be placed near fruit fly hotspots to capture adult flies.Fly Swatters: A simple fly swatter can be effective for targeting individual flies.Professional Pest Control: For severe infestations, consider contacting a professional pest control service.Understanding Limitations and AlternativesWhile vinegar traps are generally effective, they may not eliminate all fruit flies immediately, especially in cases of severe infestation. Other methods, such as flypaper, commercial fruit fly traps, and professional pest control services, may be necessary to completely eradicate the problem. Furthermore, identifying and eliminating the breeding source is paramount. If youre struggling with persistent fruit flies, consider these alternatives:Rotting fruit trap: Place a piece of rotting fruit in a jar with a paper cone leading to it.Wine trap: Fruit flies are attracted to wine as well. Place a small amount of wine at the bottom of a bottle.Beer trap: Like wine, fruit flies are drawn to beer. This can be used similarly to a wine trap.FAQs About Using Vinegar to Get Rid of Fruit FliesFAQ 1: Why does apple cider vinegar work better than white vinegar?Apple cider vinegars effectiveness stems from its sweeter, more fermented aroma. This closely mimics the smell of rotting fruit, making it a more appealing attractant than the sharper scent of white vinegar. While white vinegar can work, ACV generally yields faster and more consistent results. The specific chemical compounds produced during apple fermentation are key.FAQ 2: How long does it take for a vinegar trap to work?You should start seeing results within a few hours, with a significant reduction in fruit fly populations within 24-48 hours. However, complete elimination may take several days, depending on the severity of the infestation and the effectiveness of the trap placement. Persistence and consistently replacing the vinegar are key.FAQ 3: Do I need to use dish soap in the vinegar trap?No, but adding a drop or two of dish soap significantly enhances the traps effectiveness. The soap breaks the surface tension of the vinegar, preventing the flies from simply landing on the surface and flying away. They are more likely to sink and drown.FAQ 4: Where is the best place to put the vinegar trap?Place the trap near the source of the fruit fly infestation, such as your fruit bowl, kitchen sink, garbage can, or any other area where youve noticed fruit fly activity. Experiment with different locations to find the most effective spot.FAQ 5: How often should I replace the vinegar in the trap?Replace the vinegar every few days, or when it becomes filled with fruit flies. As the vinegar ages, its attractant power diminishes, and it becomes less effective.FAQ 6: Is vinegar safe to use around children and pets?Yes, vinegar is generally considered safe to use around children and pets. However, avoid direct contact with the eyes and skin, as it can cause irritation. Keep the trap out of reach of small children and pets to prevent accidental ingestion.FAQ 7: What if I dont have apple cider vinegar? Can I use something else? While ACV is the preferred choice, you can use other types of vinegar, such as white vinegar or balsamic vinegar. You can also try using wine or beer, which also attract fruit flies.FAQ 8: How do I know if I have a fruit fly infestation versus another type of fly?Fruit flies are small, typically about 1/8 inch long, and are usually brown or tan in color. They are often seen hovering around ripe or rotting fruit. Other types of flies, such as drain flies or fungus gnats, may have different appearances and behaviors. Drain flies are smaller and have a fuzzy appearance, while fungus gnats are slender and fly around potted plants.FAQ 9: Can fruit flies breed in my drain?Yes, fruit flies can breed in drains where food debris accumulates. Regularly cleaning your drains with a drain cleaner or boiling water can help prevent fruit fly breeding.FAQ 10: Besides vinegar, what else can I do to prevent fruit flies?Preventing fruit flies involves eliminating their food sources. This includes storing fruits and vegetables properly, cleaning up spills, emptying your garbage frequently, and keeping your sink and drains clean.FAQ 11: Are fruit flies dangerous?Fruit flies are generally not considered dangerous, as they do not bite or sting. However, they can spread bacteria and contaminate food.FAQ 12: Ive tried everything, and I still have fruit flies. What should I do?If youve tried various methods and are still struggling with fruit flies, consider contacting a professional pest control service. They can identify the source of the infestation and provide effective treatment options.Watch this awesome video to spice up your cooking! Fruit flies are pesky little insects that seem to appear out of nowhere to feast on over-ripened fruits and vegetables. They are small and quick, which makes them nearly impossible to swat. Fortunately, there is an easy and effective 3-step method to get rid of them using a common household ingredient, apple cider vinegar. Step 1: Pour approximately a half cup of apple cider vinegar into a small bowl. Step 2: Add a few drops of dish soap and mix gently. Step 3: Place the bowl near the fruit flies and wait a day or two. The sweet, pungent odor of apple cider vinegar attracts fruit flies to the bowl. The dish soap cuts the vinegars surface tension, which causes the flies to sink and drown upon contact with the surface of the liquid mixture. Its as easy as that! For more details on how to prevent and get rid of fruit flies, including variations on this method and alternative methods, keep reading. Click the links below to go straight to a section. When I first noticed fruit flies in my kitchen, I turned to the internet to learn how I could kill them quickly without spraying every inch of my kitchen with toxic chemicals. I discovered dozens of tips and tricks, but the one that seemed to surface the most is the apple cider vinegar and dish soap method. Its simple, effective, and only requires a few supplies that most people already have in their home. The best part is that it works really well. I highly recommend this method because Ive used it several times myself. Here are the three simple steps: Youll need a half cup of apple cider vinegar. I use Bragg Organic Raw-Unfiltered Apple Cider Vinegar (link to Amazon) because it has a very sweet odor, and as long as you buy the one that says With the Mother on the label, it contains the properties it produces during the fermentation process. Youll also need a few drops of dish soap and a bowl or jar. Combine approximately a half cup of apple cider vinegar with a few drops of dish soap in the bowl and mix gently. Place the bowl close to where you see the fruit flies. If they are present in multiple areas or you have a significant infestation, scatter a few bowls in each area. The more traps you set, the more likely you will capture and kill all of the flies. The traps wont capture the flies instantly. You need to give them a chance to find the scent. You can expect to see flies floating in the bowl within 24 hours but give it at least 48 to work its magic. Fruit flies are very tiny, which makes them extremely difficult to kill with a swatter. To effectively eliminate them, you have to understand them. Their primary sources of food are fruits and vegetables that are beginning to rot, and they are attracted to fermentation and sweet odor. Apple cider vinegar is the perfect bait for fruit flies because it not only has a sweet and pungent odor, but it is fermented too. Both sweetness and fermentation attract fruit flies, and the combination of both is irresistible. I use Bragg Apple Cider Vinegar With the Mother (link to buy on Amazon), which means its unfiltered and contains the healthy bacteria produced during the fermentation process. Its rumored that this type of apple cider vinegar is most effective because fruit flies feed off of the enzymes, proteins, and healthy bacteria that it contains. In my research, though, I found that regular filtered apple cider vinegar works perfectly fine too. The few drops of dish soap play an equally important role. The properties of dish soap break the surface tension of the mixture so that flies cant sit on top of the liquid and fly away. Think of surface tension as a film on top of the liquid. This film enables liquid to resist an external force, such as a fly. It occurs because the liquid molecules on the surface dont have similar molecules to adhere to on all sides (one side is air); therefore, they adhere stronger to the liquid molecules directly around them. The important thing to understand is that adding dish soap breaks the surface tension and causes the flies to sink and drown immediately upon contact with the liquid. Without the soap, the flies could sit on top of the vinegar and escape easily. To summarize using a fishing analogy, the apple cider vinegar draws the fruit flies into the bowl, playing the role of the bait, and the soap makes sure they dont get away, playing the role of the hook. There are a couple of other ways to get rid of fruit flies with apple cider vinegar that are worth trying. With the cone method, pour apple cider vinegar into a jar and roll paper into a cone funnel. Place the paper cone into the jar with the narrow end facing down so that the bottom of the cone is above the vinegar. This method works because the flies will be able to enter the jar through the wide end of the cone but wont be able to escape since the other end is narrow. This method is somewhat effective, but not as effective as the apple cider vinegar plus soap method because you run the risk that some flies will find their way out of the narrow end of the cone. Plus, its easier to put out a bowl of apple cider vinegar and dish soap then it is to make a paper cone. The second is the plastic wrap method. With the plastic wrap method, pour apple cider vinegar into a jar or bowl and cover it with plastic wrap. Place an elastic band around the jar to hold the plastic wrap in place. Then, poke several small holes in the plastic wrap. The holes allow flies to enter but make it very difficult for them to escape. This method works, but Ive found it less effective than the apple cider vinegar and dish soap method because the plastic masks the odor of the vinegar slightly, and the small holes make it more difficult for flies to find their way into the trap. Both the cone and plastic wrap methods are worth considering; however, based on my trial and error, I highly recommend testing the vinegar and dish soap method first. If you dont have apple cider vinegar in your house or youve tried these methods, and none of them got rid of your fruit fly infestation, there are several other methods to test out. Use different bait Based on my experience, I believe apple cider vinegar is the best bait, but if that doesnt work, swap the vinegar with red wine or fruit, bananas work best. You can use red wine or fruit with both the cone and plastic wrap methods. Ive heard of people putting fruit in with apple cider vinegar. I havent tried this yet, but that is another option for more intense odor and sweetness. Spray them with chemicals Add rubbing alcohol to a misting spray bottle and spray away. You can also use Windex or Clorox cleaning spray. This method will kill the fruit flies instantly, and all you have to do is wipe them off the counter or floor. The two problems with this method are that you have to make direct contact with each fly, and you put yourself at risk of breathing in chemicals. If you choose to try this method, wear gloves and a dust mask and make sure you have the proper ventilation in the room. Buy traps made specifically for fruit flies You can buy fruit fly traps online or in stores like Home Depot and Lowes. The one that gets the best reviews is made by a company called Beap Co., which you can buy on Amazon at this link. Its very affordable and comes with six traps that last for 30 days each. The main advantage of buying these traps is that they are smaller and more discreet than a jar or bowl. The way they work is a combination of the apple cider vinegar plus soap method and the cone method. The traps have a funnel shape at the top that allows flies to enter, but not exit. The mixture is simply apple cider vinegar with soap/chemicals to cut the surface tension. These traps are cheap, so if the other DIY methods dont work, its worth giving this a shot. Call a professional If all of these methods fail and you still have fruit flies swarming your produce, trash cans, and sink, call a professional. Although fruit flies are generally not harmful, they multiply extremely fast and can carry viruses that could make you ill if you mistakenly ingest enough of them. If you cant get rid of them on your own, dont let the infestation linger, call a professional and have them take a look. If youre not sure who to call, you can get free, no-obligation quotes from reliable pest-control experts on HomeAdvisor.com. Theres a chance that what you have is more severe than fruit flies, so its better to be safe than sorry. Fruit flies still appear even though I keep my house pretty airtight, which got me wondering, how do they get into my house? Fruit flies are attracted to any material that is damp and fermenting. They are most commonly found near over-ripened fruits and vegetables (hence the name, fruit fly), but they are also attracted to alcohol, sugary sodas, damp mops, rags, and trash cans. One of the most common ways to attract fruit flies is to leave over-ripened bananas like this on the counter. When the skin of the banana starts to split, it can become a feeding frenzy for fruit flies. Fruit flies enter your home in two ways: Through a door, window, or crack. Since they are so tiny, they can fit through most screen doors and windows. This scenario is most likely to happen if you live near a farm or grow fruits and vegetables in your yard. The more common scenario is that you bring the flies into the house without knowing it. Fruit flies lay their eggs on the skin of produce at the grocery store. Once you bring the produce into your home, the eggs can hatch within a week, and, just like that, you have fruit flies. There are several simple steps you can take to prevent fruit flies from appearing in your house. Wash fruit and vegetables thoroughly as soon as you bring them home, especially ones that you store on the countertop. It might seem odd to wash the skin of a banana, but doing so will remove any fruit fly eggs that could be on the surface. As fruits and vegetables become ripe, put them in the refrigerator to prevent spoiling. Keep a lid on your trash can and empty it often. I intentionally use a small trash bin, which forces me to empty it twice a week. Clean and disinfect your kitchen often. Like I mentioned before, fruit flies are attracted to damp areas where rotting and fermenting are present. If you prevent that in your home, your chances of getting fruit flies will significantly decrease. We know how annoying fruit flies can be, so we hope these methods work as well for you as they have for us. If you know of any other effective ways to keep your house fruit fly free, let us know in the comments below. If fruit flies arent the only unwanted guests in your home and youre dealing with ants too, check out these7 Natural Remedies to Get Rid of Ants. Looking to improve life at home? Check out these recent articles:

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