

Hed: We Tested Popular Fly Traps—These Are the Ones That Actually Work

Dek: Manage pests inside and out.

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SEO Hed: The 6 Best Fly Traps, Tested by BHG

SEO Description: The best fly traps get rid of bugs fast. We tested a dozen indoor and outdoor options to find ones that actually work.

Social/Apple News Hed: The Top 6 Fly Traps for Keeping Bugs Away, Backed by Testing

Flies are more than a nuisance—they get into prepared food, disrupt daily living, and are surprisingly difficult to control, says [Sonja Thomas, Ph.D.](#), an entomologist and pest control expert with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. They can also transmit diseases, lay eggs around your home, and multiply quickly, she adds.

Sometimes the best pest management solution isn't a fly swatter but a fly trap. Before you start shopping, Thomas recommends identifying the exact species of fly you're dealing with, since different flies respond to different types of traps. For our testing, we focused on catching the most common household culprit, the housefly, as well as fruit and drain flies.

What We Tested

To find the best fly traps for indoor or outdoor use, we tested a dozen at home to gauge their **ease of assembly, effectiveness, ease of cleaning**, and more. *To learn more about how we tested these fly traps, see [our testing process](#) below.*

Tout:

bhg-zevo-flying-insect-trap-brandi-fuller-05-1-1fd9eca4d80b43aab1d12cb30eef3ddf.jpg

What We Recommend

Best Plug-In, Overall: Zevo Flying Insect Trap

View at [Amazon](#)

9665bf8e-c284-492a-ad61-0f2c22e65656

Why You Should Get It: This stylish fly trap combines ease of use with effectiveness, while also providing our testers with peace of mind for any pets or children in the household.

Keep in Mind: Larger homes may need more than one trap to successfully reduce flying insect populations.

We are so impressed with the performance of the Zevo Flying Insect Trap. It uses a combination of blue and UV light to lure insects in, where they become trapped on a concealed adhesive cartridge.

Because the adhesive cartridge is hidden behind a sleek exterior plate, you never have to worry about seeing any dead bugs. This also makes for a safer choice for pets and children, since accessing the adhesive is more difficult than that of a traditional ribbon trap.

This trap is easy to set up: Just pull the protective cover off the adhesive, slide the cartridge into place, and plug the device in. It's also incredibly easy to clean. When the cartridge is ready to be replaced, a little tug on the plastic handrail pops it out for disposal. You'll never need to come in contact with insects or sticky adhesive.

One thing to keep in mind with this trap is its range. With only one trap, our tester found some smaller insects linger on the opposite side of the house, away from the testing area. However, the Zevo trap does a good job capturing insects in nearby rooms. For homes with larger square footage, you may need to use multiple traps.

Product Details: **Type:** Light trap | **Quantity:** One | **Indoor/Outdoor:** Indoor | **Target Species:** House flies, fruit flies, gnats, fungus gnats, and non-biting midges

[Callout] Fruit Fly vs. Drain Fly

“Red-eyed fruit flies are the ones most commonly encountered in homes. Fruit flies are yellow-brown in color with clear wings and usually less than 3 millimeters in length. Drain flies are up to 5 millimeters in length, tan to black in color with fine, fuzzy hairs similar to that of a moth on its wings and body.” —Sonja Thomas, Ph.D., entomologist and pest control expert

Best Plug-In, Budget: Dynatrap Plug-In Fly Trap

View at [The Home Depot](#)

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Why You Should Get It: It targets a variety of insects with a chemical-free light mechanism that relies on discreet adhesive pads.

Keep in Mind: It requires a wall outlet, so placement options for this trap may be limited depending on the layout of your home.

The Dynatrap Plug-In Fly Trap is an effective product with a low price tag. We like the compact, visually discreet design and simple setup, which is essentially the same as the Zevo: Peel the backing off the adhesive, place it in the trap, and plug it into an outlet. The UV light lures in bugs, and they get stuck on the glue where you can't see them.

Just note that the need for an outlet limits where we could place it—we aren't always able to put it in areas with the most bug activity. Despite this, it captures lots of nearby bugs, although our testers find it catches more moths, mosquitoes, and other flying insects than flies.

Product Details: **Type:** Light trap | **Quantity:** One | **Indoor/Outdoor:** Indoor | **Target Species:** Fruit flies, mosquitoes, moths, and gnats

Best Outdoor: Rescue! Disposable Fly Trap

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View at [Amazon](#)

Also available at [The Home Depot](#)

Why You Should Get It: It uses scented bait and caught hundreds of flies during our testing period.

Keep in Mind: Because of the scented bait, the disposable trap has a noticeable odor, so you may want to place it in a lower-traffic area.

The Rescue! Disposable Fly Trap is a container trap. This involves adding water to the container, which contains an odored bait, before hanging it in the desired location. Our tester thinks the scent is unpleasant but not overpowering, as long as you aren't close to the trap. It also tends to be stronger on very hot days.

This trap is supposed to catch up to 20,000 flies—it caught hundreds during our testing period alone. There were maggots contained in the trap toward the end, but the trap only targets flies, so no other insects were captured. While the sight of dead bugs may be off-putting, disposal is easy, and our tester never had to come into direct contact with the captured insects.

Product Details: **Type:** Container trap | **Quantity:** Two | **Indoor/Outdoor:** Outdoor | **Target Species:** Flies

Best Container: Katchy Indoor Insect Trap

B126d0c6-9b5d-49af-a7b2-a456b29e334a

View at [Amazon](#)

Also available at [Walmart](#)

Why You Should Get It: It combines multiple methods of luring and trapping insects, and the discreet design keeps them out of sight.

Keep in Mind: It works best in darker environments with no competing light sources.

The Katchy Indoor Insect Trap uses light to attract insects before an internal fan pulls them into a container lined with adhesive glue. It turned out to be incredibly effective for indoor use, and despite having a fan, it's quiet. However, we had concerns about the effectiveness in bright spaces, where the device's light is drowned out by competing light sources and therefore unable to attract bugs.

That said, it does capture insects. Our tester first used the Katchy trap inside her home, where it wasn't very successful. During the second week, she moved it into her garage, where it captured a variety of small flying insects.

We love the sleek and discreet design of this trap, especially because, like many of our other favorites, it hides the trapped insects. It also doesn't rely on chemicals—just the adhesive.

Product Details: **Type:** Light and container | **Quantity:** One | **Indoor/Outdoor:** Indoor | **Target Species:** Fruit flies, mosquito, gnats, and moths

Best for Windows: Raid Window Fly Trap

View at [The Home Depot](#)

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Why You Should Get It: It's so cheap and takes just minutes to install.

Keep in Mind: The trap itself is invisible, but you'll still be able to see the insects it catches.

This less-than-\$10 trap from Raid catches flies right at the source of entry. The clear plastic strip attaches directly to the glass on your window, with an exposed adhesive to capture flying insects that come into contact with it. While it does limit your placement, our tester finds it to be an effective trap. In testing, it caught a noticeable amount of flies and gnats.

Installing the entire four-pack of traps took around five minutes, with each trap placed on a different window. One thing to keep in mind, however, is that this trap does not come with a discreet front plate. While the traps themselves aren't highly visible on the window because of their clear design, the dead insects are visible.

Product Details: **Type:** Adhesive trap | **Quantity:** Four | **Indoor/Outdoor:** Indoor | **Target Species:** Flies, gnats, and moths

Best for Garages: Bugbane Fly Strips

View at [Amazon](#)

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Why You Should Get It: You get 24 traps for less than \$1 a piece.

Keep in Mind: It's an eyesore.

Don't forget about the insects congregating in your garage. The Bugbane Fly Strips are visually unappealing (they're 26-inch-long strips of double-sided adhesive that hang from the ceiling), but they work. They're easy to install without getting your fingers sticky, and they're equally easy to dispose of. Simply remove the ribbons from their hanging spot and discard.

Our tester's strips attracted flies and other flying insects during the testing period. The nontoxic and chemical-free traps come in a pack of 24, too. At less than \$1 per strip, it's an incredible value. You can use them outside, too.

Product Details: **Type:** Adhesive trap | **Quantity:** 24 | **Indoor/Outdoor:** Both | **Target Species:** House flies, fruit flies, gnats, mosquitoes, lantern flies, horse flies, moths, and tachinid flies

The Bottom Line

We crowned the [Zevo Flying Insect Trap](#) as our top pick because of its discreet and hygienic design, how easy it was to use, and how effective it was at catching bugs. We love the no-contact disposal—and the fact that you don't even have to see the bugs it catches—and that it made a noticeable difference in reducing the amount of flies and other bugs around our tester's home.

Our Testing Process

To find the best fly traps, we tested a variety of models with different mechanisms and target species. The first step was assembly—how straightforward was it to set up adhesive traps, lights, and liquids. We then looked at the overall design. Some traps are discreet and hide the bugs from view once trapped, while others leave them exposed.

Effectiveness was most important. Testers paid attention to how many bugs each trap caught over the initial two-week period; some only caught one (or none at all) and didn't make our list. Others, like the [Rescue! Disposable Fly Traps](#), caught hundreds. Because many of the traps we tested targeted flies *and* other species, we also took note of any other insects that ended up in the traps.

When it came time to dispose of the dead bugs, we evaluated the cleaning process. It may go without saying, but we preferred traps that did not require our testers to come into contact with bait, adhesives, or bugs.

What to Know About Fly Traps

Type

Here's a look at the most popular types of fly traps:

Adhesive traps, like the [Bugbane fly strips](#), are likely what you think of when you hear the word "fly trap." They rely on glue or another type of adhesive to catch flies as they move around your home. Basic adhesive traps are often budget-friendly, though Thomas says to keep pets away.

The Bugbane variety we tested is kid- and pet-safe, but if you go for another option, you may want to make sure they're nontoxic if you have children or animals in your home. On top of that, you should make sure they're hanging far enough from walls so that the super-sticky adhesive doesn't grab onto your paint and ruin it. Thomas also warns that some may drip onto your floors (the Bugbane didn't).

Light traps, like the [Zevo flying insect trap](#), rely on UV and/or blue light to attract flies. However, this mode of attraction can be combined with other elimination methods. For example, the Zevo uses an adhesive cartridge to capture flies lured in by the light. Other traps may use a container or zapper mechanic to help reduce the number of flies in your home.

For many, light traps can be a safer option for households with children or pets. They can also have less mess than some other traps, but you need an outlet to plug them in.

Container traps, such as the [RESCUE! Outdoor Disposable Fly Traps](#), contain an attractant (bait or light) that draws flies into an enclosure they can't escape. While not a feature in all container traps, some include water or insecticides that eliminate trapped flies.

Zapper traps may have you thinking about mosquito management, but they're useful for other flying pests, too. The core mechanics of zapper traps is that they use electrical shocks to kill insects when they come into contact with the trap. They may include other features, such as a light, to attract them.

Many zapper traps come with safety features, like auto-off and protective coverings to reduce accidents. Use with caution and keep well out of reach if you have kids or pets. At this time, we do not have a recommendation for zapper traps, but will consider testing more in the future.

Placement

Where you place your fly trap can make a difference, especially if you're using a trap that doesn't have bait or other means of attraction. Flies are often drawn to sources of shelter, food, and breeding grounds, which can make areas like your kitchen or garbage can hot spots for activity.

Some traps may also have a limit to their effective radius; their trapping abilities may be limited to one room rather than your entire home.

While many traps are odorless, this isn't true for all, especially those using baits. Because of the types of scents flies are attracted to, these traps may not produce odors you want in your home or near areas you spend time, indoors or out. Though highly effective, the [Rescue! Disposable Fly Traps](#) have an odor, so it's best to put these somewhere you aren't going to get a whiff often.

Safety

When investing in pest management for your home, safety is of the utmost importance, especially if you have small children or curious pets. Some traps may use baits, insecticides, or other types of chemicals that aren't safe to touch or ingest, while others, like zappers, may come with a risk of electric shocks, although there are often safety features and preventative measures in place. With non-concealed glue traps, there's a risk of traps sticking to fur, hair, or skin on accidental contact.

Always read the instructions to learn the best way to use your trap, and read any warning labels beforehand to be certain that your chosen trap will be safe to use in your household.

Your Questions, Answered

Do fly traps attract more flies?

Whether or not your fly trap will attract more flies than you already have depends on the type of trap you're using. Passive traps—those that simply catch flies already in the area—generally won't draw in additional insects. Traps that rely on bait and other attractants, however, may lead to an increase in flies.

Thomas explains this, using liquid traps as an example: "Liquid fly containers have an attractant that can draw in more flies. They have been known to attract hundreds of flies that may otherwise not have been an issue."

When you're dealing with a large fly population, this isn't necessarily a bad thing—it can actually help reduce numbers more effectively. Just be strategic about placement and install attractant-based traps outside, away from where you want to minimize fly activity.

What is the most effective type of fly trap?

Fly traps often differ in regards to method of action and target species, which can make it difficult to compare effectiveness. One trap that does an excellent job at reducing house flies may not target fruit flies as well as a different trap.

As a result, the most effective type of fly trap often depends on several factors. This includes the species you want to target, whether you're looking for an indoor or outdoor trap, and the additional steps you take.

Thomas says a successful fly program starts with cleaning up the source of infestation, sealing entryways, and trapping and/or treating the remaining adults and larvae.

Are homemade fly traps effective?

Some homemade fly traps may be more effective on certain species than others. When talking about what fruit flies are attracted to, Thomas pinpoints fruit and rotting organic matter as notable breeding areas. Using this to your advantage, you may be able to [recreate popular DIYs](#), like apple cider vinegar traps, that draw flies in to eliminate them. These traps may not be effective on other species who find other attractants more appealing, though.

Who We Are

[Megan Newton](#) is a writer for *Better Homes & Gardens*. She has also written about mosquito traps, garden tools, grass seeds, and more. For this piece, she analyzed insights from our testing team and spoke with [Sonja Thomas, Ph.D.](#), entomologist and pest control expert with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, to finalize our list of the best fly traps you can buy right now.

What is BHG Recommends?

Next to all of the products on this list, you may have noticed our [BHG Recommends seal of approval](#). Products that earn the seal have been put through rigorous testing to make sure they're worth a spot in your home. We buy most of the products we test ourselves, but occasionally we are provided samples by companies if buying isn't an option. In these cases, we use the same testing criteria we use to test the purchased products.