The State Board of Health of Florida

ASKS YOU to carefully and attentively read this card: THEN, put the question directly to yourself, whether flies should not be destroyed, or, at least, an effort be made to keep from polluting food prepared for you to eat.

**Flies are disease carriers**

*Live and breed in all kinds of filth*  
*Infect food and drink by germ-laden feet*  
*Each female fly can lay 150 eggs*  
*Should be kept out of dwellings*

- Flies breed in horse manures, cow dung, decaying vegetables, garbage of all description, dead animals and human excrement.
- Flies are Nature’s scavengers; it is true, filling the same function as some housemaids do, but become so intolerable nuisance and DANGER when existing in human dwellings and contaminating foods.
- The presence of flies is a direct evidence of careless housekeeping and the existence of filth in some form about the premises.
- Remember that when and where accurate cleanliness prevails there will be no flies.
- Look daily after the garbage cans. See that they are carefully sprinkled with lime or kerosene oil and effectively covered.
- Do the same thing to manure heaps, and remove all manures from stables every three or four days, and when removed, cover with lime and sand.
- Look carefully after the dustpans. They require constant attention. This is particularly true in hotels, boarding-houses, station houses, railroad stations, and in fact, wherever people congregate in large numbers.
- Flies are fond of feeding on tabernacle sewage, and forever around cesspools. The specks of flies contain live tabernacle bacilli after they have eaten tabernacle excretion, showing that the bacillus will pass through the digestive tract of the fly in an active infective state.
- Flies carry on their mouth parts and on their legs, germs and disease germs, on which they have recently fed, and crawl over food, infecting it, unless that out by screens.
- Keep flies from the SICK, especially those ill with communicable or contagious diseases. If the room is not screened the patient should be treated under a tent, both for safety to others as well as for individual comfort.

**SCREEN ALL FOOD.** Apply this rule, not only to food prepared at home, but to foods usually offered for sale, and especially fruits, nuts, and all other things which do not require to be cooked. For—

- Flies crawl over fruit when exposed for sale, unpurchased by screens, and the generality of people do not wash fruit before eating it. This is a fertile source of human infection, particularly if a case of typhoid fever nearby is being carelessly handled.
- Don’t forget that flies will carry the bacillus of typhoid fever from the stools of the patient if left exposed and not disinfected, if given an opportunity, to the food in the kitchen and dining room. This is no conjecture, for the Spanish-American War proved this fact.
- The great secret of how to get rid of flies is CLEANLINESS, FIRST; and by screening all openings of the house, especially the kitchen and dining room.
- Look at the marginal illustrations. They are disgusting, it is true. So are flies. The disgust that your stomach receives through your eye is no nothing, however, to the probable and possible harm which you will receive by flying live head to the wounds suggested by the drawings.

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