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AACK!

Maggots, Fruit Flies and House Flies

I'll admit, this isn't a pleasant subject. However, I had to retract what I told my son this morning as he discovered me securing the trash bag from the small trashcan in the kitchen.

My knowledge was wrong, but I didn't realize it at the time as I was capturing tiny maggots that had escaped the trash bag and dropped onto the floor. I rushed the now secured bag out the door to the trash receptacle on the side of the house.

When I came back inside, my focus was on the floor where I discovered several escapees trying to blend into the tile grout while using those grout freeways to get away and save themselves from annihilation. It didn't work. I grabbed a damp cloth and swiped them up and flushed them down the drain with hot water. To make sure none would escape the sink, I ran the garbage disposal.

Yeah, I have a darker side, one filled with a tendency to kill horrifying things such as maggots.

My focused inspection determined no more squiggly bodies on the tile floor.

While I was in the midst of discovery, I bleated out that I should have recognized that maggots were birthing in the trash because fruit flies were flying about in the house.

My son was astonished that he never made the connection between maggots and those flying pests. We had a discussion about what maggots were: larva of flies. For some reason, I thought fruit flies were baby flies.

Thank you Mr. Google for setting me straight. Fruit flies and house flies are two totally different types of flies and their maggots are two different sizes. So, how do maggots get into your trashcan to begin with?

When a fly smells the intoxicating aroma of rotting food, it heads straight for the source. The female fly most likely thanks us profusely for creating such a motherlode of garbage ripe for laying her eggs. Over three or four days, this little flying creature can take her time to lay up to 500 eggs.

Oh, wonderful. Congratulations! I'm so glad I could help you bring these little maggots into the world right here in my kitchen!

What did you say? You invited your twelve sisters along for the celebration and they did the honors of laying their eggs as well?

Horrifying horrors! This is worse than a slasher film.

So where does the fruit fly come into all of this? Those little buggers can lay 2,000 eggs during their short lifespans of 8 to 15 days. Their little bitty maggots

hatch within 30 hours. They love the same environments as their cousins, the house fly and most likely share the same breeding ground—your trashcan.

Sink drains, garbage disposals and other stinky dark places are like the make-out place where teens drive to when they're supposed to be doing something their parents approved. Fruit flies also love your dirty mop bucket. That's most likely the equivalent of the old drive-in theaters for carloads of teens.

In horror stories and creepy movies, creatures with red eyes are bad news. While houseflies and fruit flies won't attack and kill you like a zombie, both have red eyes. Fruit flies have black rings on their bodies while the housefly is grey with stripes on their faces. I don't know about you, but I don't plan to get out my magnifying glass and examine one to determine exactly what color those stripes are. I'll take the word of the experts.

Sayonara, you annoying, disgusting things. Your end is forthcoming.