

Ask Shell

A Your problem is an age-old one when the weather is dry outside and the drains don't get used, you must keep your drains inside filled with water. The traps in floor drains, or any drains that haven't been used often, will eventually dry out. Dry traps or unused drains must have water activity or you will experience sewer odour from the septic tank or the city sewer system. Always keep shower, bathtub and basin traps full of water during the winter because the water evaporates and will let smells back into the room.

SB

Q A few years ago we had a place built up in the Okanagan that we go to every summer. Both years we have gone up we've noticed little black flies in the windowsills. We don't know how they are getting in and are wondering what we can do to seal up the area they are getting in.

Ken Stanley
Vancouver, BC

A Some areas inside are more prone to flies than others, and flies tend to lay their larva in damp areas such as window sashes. The key to controlling these little black flies is to locate and eliminate their breeding sources. Store fruit and vegetable in the fridge; clean spills on cupboards and near garbage cans. Clean garbage disposal and drains in the sink regularly and inspect your indoor plants.

Place fruit fly traps to eliminate the existing flies. Make your own fruit fly trap filling a small dish with half an inch of cider vinegar and two drops of dish soap. A second option is to place half an inch of red wine in a saucer. A non-toxic fruit fly trap by Contech can be purchased at most home centres as well.

Every spring and fall, when you open and close the cabin for the season, make a habit of cleaning in and around window sashes. Consider installing a fly screen in your bathroom exhaust fan grille, and install a cover on your dryer vent with a flap on it that remains closed when not in use.

SB

ASK SHELL!

Send Shell your questions. Answers may appear in a future issue of Cottage. The HouseSmart Referral team will do their best to respond to your inquiry. Your name, phone number and region must be included for a response. shell@cottagemagazine.com



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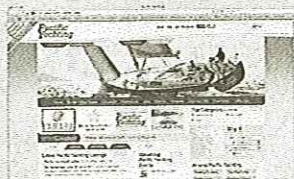
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