

# BITING FLY TRAPS



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Protein-based traps (rotting or decomposing smell) that are put out to catch houseflies, blowflies, bushflies and other nuisance flies WILL NOT catch any biting or stable flies. Only white boards with a sticky surface will catch biting flies as they like to rest on a cool, vertical surface after a blood meal and are not attracted to rotting protein. Below are some options for you to catch biting flies with boards and/or specific traps placed either around your house (verandahs, fence posts, kennels, poultry sheds) or livestock yards and paddocks where animals typically congregate.

## Williams Trap

This trap is the simplest form of a biting fly trap that uses a white alsynite board panel (see pics below) with a non-drying glue (“Stikem”) painted onto the surface to catch the flies. These traps are specific to biting flies and will catch very little else, so they are very effective. Secure the white board to a star picket or post at 1m from the ground to avoid getting covered in dirt and dust. Paint both sides of the board with the non-drying glue, which must be heated on a hot plate first till it has thinned and can be painted on more easily – it must be painted on quickly and any drops on you or anything else will only come off with baby oil. You can buy a white Handyman’s Panel Board (polycarbonate) from your hardware store for around \$33. “Stikem” is only sold from the Olive Centre in Qld ([www.theolivecentre.com](http://www.theolivecentre.com)) (450g tins cost \$23.64 + postage). A 3kg tin (costing \$131.82 + postage can be used for up to 20 applications. Once the white boards are covered with biting flies, scrape off with a paint scraper – it is messy, but a very effective trap.



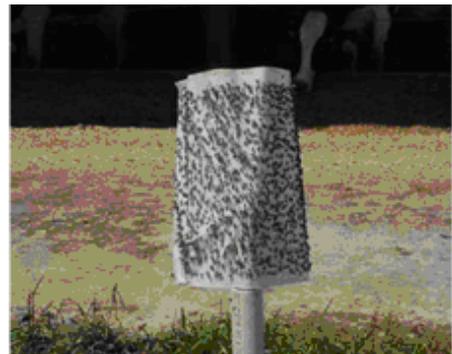
## Bite Free Stable Fly Traps

Small, commercial versions of the Williams Trap are available but with the advantage of being easier to handle and disposable when full of flies. The traps go under several different names, e.g. Farnam Bite Free Stable Fly Trap, Starbar Bite Free Stable Fly Trap and EZ Sticky Fly Trap. These traps are available from the US at either: [www.valleyvet.com](http://www.valleyvet.com) (\$9.25 US/trap); [www.cattlestore.com](http://www.cattlestore.com) (\$9.49US/trap); [www.drsfostersmith.com](http://www.drsfostersmith.com) (\$6.99US/trap); [www.rinconvitova.com](http://www.rinconvitova.com) (\$11.09US/trap); [www.smartpakequine.com](http://www.smartpakequine.com) (\$9.98US/2 traps).



## Olson Sticky Traps for Biting Flies

The Olson Traps consist of an Alsynite cylinder covered with a disposable, sticky white sleeve. Fasten the trap to a fence post or stake pushed into the ground. You can buy replacement sticky white sleeves to use when the trap surface gets well covered with biting flies and/or dirt and dust ([www.olsonproducts.com](http://www.olsonproducts.com))



## Sticky Tape for Biting Flies

Sticky paper rolls may attract and trap biting flies. Aeroxon Barn & Stable Fly Catcher has a large trapping area of 0.5 m<sup>2</sup> – hang in barns, stables, kennels where you want to reduce flies. Simply dispose of when covered in flies. Available from [www.biconet.com](http://www.biconet.com): 2 fly catcher rolls cost \$9.95

## Epps Biting Fly Trap



The **Epps Biting Fly Trap** is designed to trick stable flies and other biting flies into believing it's an animal. Biting flies typically circle an animal before they land to feed, but as they try to fly over or under the Epps Trap they hit the clear plastic 'deflectors' and drop into the trough of soapy water below and drown. This trap is not effective against non-biting flies such as houseflies, bushflies or blowflies. Cost = \$495 for the portable unit or \$445 for the fixed unit ([www.bitingflies.com.au](http://www.bitingflies.com.au)) plus shipping costs (approx \$30) or \$299US plus postage from [www.rinconvitova.com](http://www.rinconvitova.com).

**PROTEIN-BASED TRAPS AVAILABLE IN AUSTRALIA**  
 (for catching nuisance flies such as blowflies, houseflies, bushflies)



- A = \$25.95 from [www.florapestcontrol.com.au](http://www.florapestcontrol.com.au) (plus \$10 postage)  
 B = \$29.50 from [www.bonzabuy.com.au](http://www.bonzabuy.com.au) (plus \$8.80 postage) \$12.50 for 6 bait sachets  
 C = \$19.95 from [www.flytraps.com.au](http://www.flytraps.com.au) (postage included)  
 D = \$11.99 from [www.bonzabuy.com.au](http://www.bonzabuy.com.au) (plus \$8.80 postage) E = \$28.00 from [www.amacron.com.au](http://www.amacron.com.au) (plus postage)  
 F = \$15.95 from [www.horsesuppliesdirect.com.au](http://www.horsesuppliesdirect.com.au) (plus postage) G = \$14.95 from [www.epestsupplies.com.au](http://www.epestsupplies.com.au) (plus postage)  
 H = \$11.95 from [www.camelidsupplies.com.au](http://www.camelidsupplies.com.au) (plus postage)

## HOW DO I KNOW I HAVE BITING FLIES?

The biting fly or “stable fly” is very similar in size and appearance to the common house fly and bush fly – the major difference between these flies is that the biting fly has, as their name suggests, a prominent biting mouthpart. Stable flies are persistent biters, feeding on animals several times a day, preferring to bite cattle and horses, but will also attack humans, dogs, pigs, newborn lambs, pet kangaroos and emus. Their bite causes a sharp pain as it quickly draws blood – the fly often punctures the skin several times before drawing blood and they can increase their body weight by up to 3 times when fully fed.

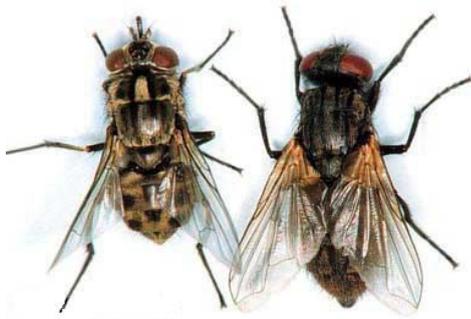


Fig 1. Biting fly v House fly (top view)

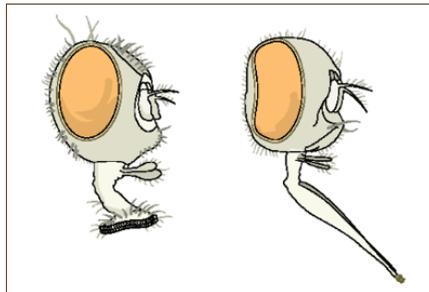


Fig 2. The mouthparts of House fly (Left) versus Biting Fly (Right)



Fig. 3. Biting Fly piercing mouthpart



Fig 4. A Biting fly drawing blood from a human

The picture on the far left shows that the biting or stable fly is slightly smaller than a house fly but has the prominent black piercing mouthpart sticking out the front of its head – this is lowered and used to pierce the skin of animals and humans to draw blood, as is shown in Figures 3 and 4. House flies have sponge-like mouthparts that they use to release saliva down onto a surface and then suck back up the food they have contacted (see Fig 2).

Disclaimer: Neither the University of WA nor the Shire of Gingin endorse any of the products mentioned on this information brochure. Any product omission is unintentional and prices quoted are current as at November, 2011.

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