

WHY ARE FLYING INSECTS ATTRACTED TO LIGHT?

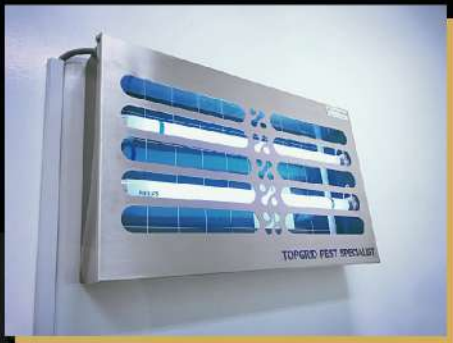
It is very common that we often see flying insects gathered around lights and we may be wondering why. However, science does not have a specific explanation to this. There are several theories that may explain this.

Phototaxis – natural attraction to light

Phototaxis is the ability of an insect to move directionally to a light source.

Some insects have negative phototaxis. For example, cockroaches, they move away from the light.

While for other flying insects, such as moths, alates and flies, they have positive phototaxis and attracted to the light.



Light traps installed at F&B outlets to prevent fly infestation.

Light for navigation

The positive phototaxis insects use natural source of lights, such as sun and moon for navigation. When they come across with artificial light, they might be confused.

Instead of using the natural light source as the guide, they may try to keep the artificial light at a constant angle while navigating their route.