Fungus gnats and drain flies are often the nuisance pest in home. These are both flies, with several species in each basic grouping, and their common names are given to them for good reason.

There are some similarities and differences between drain flies and fungus gnats.

**Similarities:** Both groups are small creature, live and breed in moist organic materials. They do not have the ability to bite or otherwise harm us and animals, simply a nuisance pest.

**Differences:**

**Fungus gnats (photo 1) can manage to breed in simply damp conditions where tiny bits of mildew or mold may grow.** Fungus gnats are some of our tiniest flies, with thin, dark bodies that end in a point and a pair of tiny, clear wings. The larvae will feed on mildew and fungi of some sort the adult flies look for the damp conditions that will grow this food resource. **Inside the home a common place to find perfect conditions for fungus gnats will be house plants, more specifically the soils these plants grow in.** There may be other possibilities indoors as well, such as areas beneath or around leaking plumbing, perhaps under the kitchen sink or, worse, within walls where pipes and fittings may have begun to leak. It could be carpets or other flooring below windows that are leaking rainwater inside, catch pans under the fridge, mildew growing on or below a window sill that has condensation dripping down off the window continually in the winter.

**Drain flies (photo 2) need a much larger buildup of wet goo (organic materials) to breed.** Drain fly is also called a “moth” fly, because it has wide and hairy wings resemble a tiny, gray moth, though it has only one pair of wings (real moth has 2 pairs of wings). Drain fly is tiny, usually no larger than 1/8 inch. **Inside home, common places are sink, floor, or bathtub drains, as hair and many other things get washed into sinks there eventually will be an accumulation that could even become a complete plug in that drain (photo 3).** Another common breeding habitat is the inaccessible “overflow drain” where overflowing water gets into through the overflow hole in the sink. These areas remain continually wet, with organic
buildup coating the sides of the pipes below the sink, and drain flies look at this as just heavenly.

**Control:** For control of these gnats and most other nuisance flies we cannot focus on controlling the adult fly. There is no reason to set off bug "bombs" in the home, and very little reason to use other kinds of aerosol foggers to spray in the air.

Effort should focus on identify and eliminate the conditions that allow them to breed and live. Otherwise, the flies will be quickly replaced by new flies coming from larval habitat.

Gnat control, obviously, is to eliminate the water problem, for it definitely is a "problem" that needs to be corrected.

**Drain flies are controlled by cleaning the drains or other areas of organic buildup, especially the over-flow drain and build-ups.** There are not harsh and dangerous drain cleaners, but are products that use bacterial or enzymatic action to actually eat the organic buildup and allow it to be washed away. It may take a few days to a week, but the result is far friendlier to the environment and to your family than the use of caustic cleaners. Also pesticide use is not encouraged in control of these nuisance flies. There are gel products on market but none products are more efficient than **Eliminating Breeding Habitats** in home.

**Credits:** all the photos are downloaded from Google-Image.