

Carpet Beetles



Carpet Beetle Larvae



Carpet Beetle Adult

There are several varieties of carpet beetles that may infest your home or business. There are also a number of similar beetles that may cause damage, including hide beetles and museum beetles. These beetles can be even more damaging than clothes moths and harder to control. Adult beetles are somewhat the shape of a “lady bug” but smaller and duller in color. Color ranges from black to a mottled brown, white and yellow. Adults may be found outdoors feeding on flowers in the early spring and summer.

It is the larva, or caterpillar stage, that does the damage. They resemble tiny, fuzzy caterpillars that are often orange, brown, black variations of color. These larvae are scavengers. They may be found in such places as bird nests, on dead animals or in insect collections. They often feed on animal materials, hair, fur, hides and woolen products. And, they also can feed on plant materials such as cereals, stored grains or nuts. Dried dog food may be infested.

Since they are able to feed on such a variety materials they are often harder to control than clothes moths, which are usually limited to wool materials.

The damage from carpet beetles is often a single hole in a wool suit or sweater as opposed to the “patchy” feeding from moths. The beetles may scatter throughout the house and may not be evident until damage is already done. Adults may be found on inside window sills without any evidence of larvae.

Infestation may result when a single item is brought into a home and the infestation is not noticed. An old piano, an antique item, old woolens, infested cereal products are common. It is also possible that adult beetles are simply moving indoors from outside shrubbery during warmer weather.

Prevention: You can help prevent fabric pest infestations by inspecting items carefully before bringing them into your home, by the routine cleaning of carpets, upholstery and frequent dry cleaning of garments. Throw away old spices, dry dog food and items of fur, feathers and leather that are not being used. Vacuum animal hair from cold air ducts and from under appliances. Periodically inspect stored clothing and closets with a strong light.

To arrange treatment of clothing and household items in our vacuum vault call Raffy Sanchez 800 542 1234 or for treatment of your home or business

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