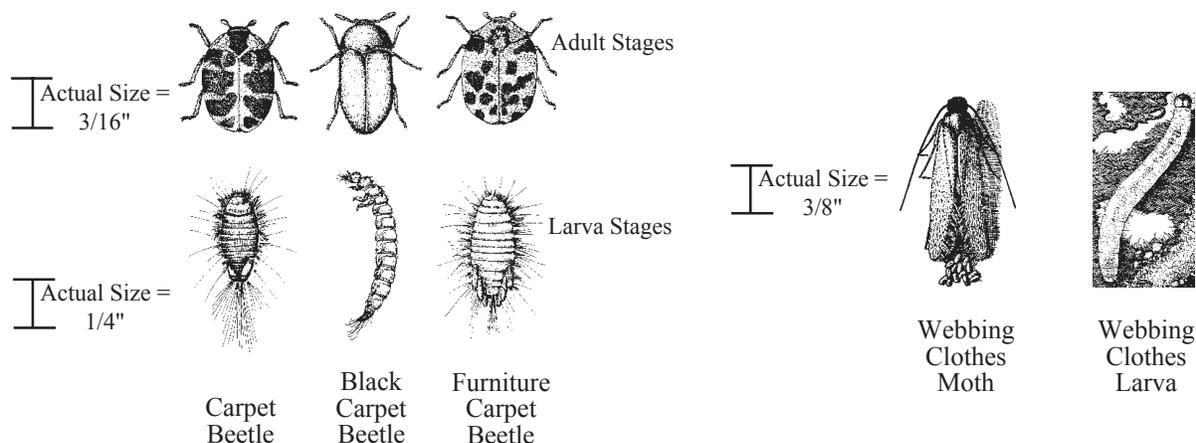


PEST CONTROL BULLETIN NO. 7

CARPET BEETLES AND CLOTHES MOTHS



GENERAL INFORMATION

Two common fabric pests are carpet beetles and clothes moths. Carpet beetles or "buffalo moths" are not as well known as clothes moths but are often more abundant. Their damage is frequently blamed on clothes moths.

HABITS AND DAMAGE

The larvae of these pests are the damaging stage, and prefer to work in dark areas of drawers, cupboards, closets, boxes, etc. They feed on anything that contains feathers, wool, fur, or animal hairs. The full grown clothes moth larvae are about three-eighths of an inch long, white with brownish head, and practically hairless. Carpet beetle larvae become one-quarter inch long, elongated-oval in shape, and have brownish to black bristles that give them a gray or golden fuzzy appearance. As they develop, they cast their skins and this small fuzzy case is the first sign of an infestation. The adult carpet beetle is about three-sixteenths of an inch long, broadly oval, and dark, mottled with white, yellow, brown or black. It is commonly found on certain flowers in the garden, and most abundantly in the spring. The adult clothes moth has a wing spread of about one-half inch, and is yellowish or buff colored. The adult occurs generally throughout the country entering homes through open doors, windows, or any small opening. It is also frequently brought in with infested materials, or on clothing, etc.

PREVENTION

Practice good house-keeping constantly. Vacuum cleaning is the best way to remove lint and hair from hard-to-reach places, especially close to the wall. Use the proper attachments. Rotate rugs, or the furniture on

wall-to-wall carpeting. Woolen scraps, pennants, or garments that lay for long periods of time are a source of infestation. Store these things properly with treated paper, or get rid of them. Dry cleaning kills all stages of these pests, but is no protection against reinfestation. Protective treatments are applied by many cleaning establishments. You can rid woolen articles of the pests by brushing, especially close to the seams, and sunning them for several hours. Carpet beetle larvae may feed on dried flour-like food products, in old wasp nests, or on museum specimens. Inspect same.

CONTROL METHODS

Infestations are often quite general, requiring treatment or close inspection of the entire house. In a general or serious infestation, the entire house may be treated or fumigated by a structural pest control operator. Refer to your yellow pages of the telephone book.

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This information is provided to help homeowners with their pest problems. Insecticides may be purchased at nurseries, hardware, farm supply, and pet stores. If additional help is needed, contact with a licensed pest control operator is suggested.

No endorsement of trade names or products is intended nor is criticism implied of similar products not mentioned.

PRECAUTIONS

1. Handle insecticides with care and follow instructions on the label.
2. Do not use around open flame or exposed foods, and always clean food preparation areas after the use of pesticides.
3. Store out of reach of children and pets, preferably in locked cabinets.
4. Never keep pesticides in anything other than the original container.
5. Never reuse the pesticide container to store any other materials.
6. Dispose of all empty containers by placing them in the trash can for removal to the local disposal area.



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