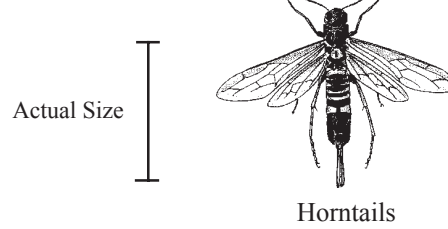
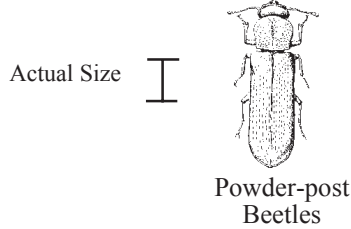


# WOOD BORERS



## GENERAL INFORMATION

Powder-post beetles (Lyctidae) and other wood boring beetles are second only to termites in destruction of wood. The damage of powder-post beetles may be recognized by the small round holes which appear in hardwood floors, furniture, etc., accompanied by the presence of fine dust resulting from the boring of the insects. The small (1/8") brownish, red, or black beetles that emerge from the tiny holes. Most powder-post beetles complete their life cycle within a year's time, overwintering as grubs within the wood. Some of the related larger beetle borers take longer to develop, occasionally several years under some dry conditions. These make larger exit holes and are usually few in number. Often these beetles are brought into a house inside of firewood. Those species, other than Lyctidae, do not ordinarily reenter wood after original emergence. Borers may be brought in with seasoned lumber from the lumber yard or occasionally in furniture. Most hardwoods are attacked, including ash, oak, hickory, maple, and also bamboo products.

Horntails or wood wasps (Siricidae) are large (3/4"-2") wasps that are occasionally seen within homes where they have emerged from wood, especially in newer or rebuilt construction. These insects are mostly metallic blue or black and without a prominent narrow "waist" in front of the abdomen. The female wasp has a long sturdy ovipositor for laying eggs in bark or wood of forest conifer trees. Emergence holes are about one-quarter of an inch in diameter. One to three years are usually required for the horntails to develop from the egg, grub, and pupal stage to adults which emerge from the wood. These wasps *do not* reinfest the buildings. Also, *they cannot sting nor injure people*. Emergence holes may be plugged with wood filler or putty and painted over to match the original finish.

## CONTROL

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Heavily infested flooring may have to be replaced and other woodwork refinished. Occasionally, the entire building or separate pieces of wooden articles or furniture may warrant a fumigation treatment.

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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.

