

Carpet and Fur Beetles



Adult Carpet Beetles seek the light and live outdoors on plants, but can be found roaming indoors.

Carpet Beetle larvae, known as “Woolly Bears”, avoid the light and live indoors, usually in dark, quiet places.

Larvae are also often found in bird’s nests and usually beetles gain access to properties via the loft from bird’s nests in the eaves.

They usually spread down into the property via the airing cupboard.

Little is known about the Fur Beetle but they are similar to Carpet Beetles.

They are often found in foodstuffs and occasionally in grain.

How can you identify a Carpet or Fur beetle?

The Carpet Beetle is approximately 3mm in size.

It’s dark brown or black mottled with patches of white or yellow scales.

The Fur Beetle is slightly larger at 5mm.

It’s black except for small patches of white hair on either side near their middle.

Damage caused by carpet beetles

Whilst adults feed on flowers, the larvae require food of animal origin.

They can cause considerable damage to:

- carpets
- clothes,
- wool
- leather
- silk etc,

but they will not attack man-made fibres.

Prevention and treatment

The best way to resolve a Carpet Beetle problem is prevention.

Vacuum regularly (especially in areas under storage heaters or at the skirting junction.)

Old bird's nests, animal remains and dead insects are sometimes the cause of infestation and should be removed if found.

If the problem continues, spray with an insecticide specifically for indoor use on Carpet Beetles/crawling insects.

You should be sprayed floorboards, in cracks and gaps around skirting boards.

When using pesticides or chemicals always read the label before using.

Service we provide

Infestations of Carpet Beetles and Fur Beetles are often caused by defects in the building structure, allowing the beetles to enter the home from the source, e.g. bird nest in chimney void. If the source of the problem is not removed, the effectiveness of using insecticides within the home will be limited as re-infestation will most likely occur.

We recommend that you treat for Carpet Beetles and Fur Beetles yourself.

However, if you need advice please contact the pest control service.