



Characteristics

The drugstore beetle is cylindrical in body shape and has distinctly striated wing covers. It is brown in colour and is about 2 to 3.5 mm long. The last three segments of the antennae are like a saw. Its food is varied and it is said to feed "upon almost anything except cast iron."

Infestation

The drugstore beetle is a common pest of processed and packaged food products making its way into the home in spite of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs at the processing, distribution, and storage facilities. This stored product pest can cause tremendous damage, mostly in its larval stage. It gets its name from its habit of feeding on prescription drugs. It also feeds on flours, chocolates and other sweets, and spices. Non-food material includes wool, hair, leather and horn. It is known to bore into books, wooden objects, and, in some cases, lead sheets. Drugstore beetle eggs are laid singly in its food source. The entire life cycle is generally less than two months but can be as long as seven depending on the temperature and food source.

Before Treatment

1. Locating all sources of infestation is the first and most important step. Heavily infested items should be wrapped in heavy plastic, taken outside and thrown away. All food containers and items should be checked for infestation and disposed of when contaminated. Uninfested items can be cold- or heat-treated to ensure that any undetected stages are killed. To prevent reinfestation, clean up spilled flour, mixes, crumbs, etc. and thoroughly vacuum and clean areas where the contaminated items were stored. Store foods in airtight glass, metal or plastic containers. Clear containers make it easier to check for infestation.
1. Plan to be away for at least **6 to 8 hours** * after application. This includes most pets *. Fish tanks should be covered and the filter turned off. Plants are ok.
 - * Small children 2 & under, pregnant women and people with respiratory or cardiac problems should be out **overnight** according to BC Ministry guidelines. Apply these same guidelines to special-needs pets.
2. Small children 2 & under and people with respiratory problems or pregnant should be out **overnight** according to the BC Ministry guidelines.
3. The technician would appreciate **access** to all cracks and crevices where the contaminated items were stored.

Application

A residual quick-drying chemical is applied to cracks, crevices and shelves in storage areas after removal of stored products.

After Treatment

Do not wash treated areas, cupboard shelves and drawers for 30 days. Place shelf paper or newspaper on shelves and in drawers before any items are returned to the cupboards. Wash all countertops, cutting boards, fridge and stove tops with soap and water before using. Open windows if possible.

Always keep your food products in sealed containers and discard contents at the first signs of contamination.