

Characteristics

All types of carpet beetles resemble lady bugs, but are smaller - about 1/3 to 1/2 the size of a lady bug. Although the coloration and patterns of carpet beetles vary, a trained eye can properly identify them.

Infestation

Carpet beetles live outside feeding on many types of plants. They can fly so it is easy for them to get inside. The female will lay eggs on surfaces that she feels will provide good food for the larvae when they hatch. Larvae are the stage which causes all the damage. They eat just about anything.

These pests are more common than people realize. Carpet beetles feed and nest out of sight. You are likely to find one or two every now but since they live in hidden areas their populations will readily grow.

Before Treatment

1. Identify all areas of infestation. Though you may have only found a few in one area of the home, it is likely others are elsewhere.
2. 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 and people with respiratory problems or pregnant should be out **overnight** according the BC Ministry guidelines. Apply these guidelines to special needs pets.
3. Cover and put away all **food**.
4. Turn **off** all computers.
5. To create the best conditions for the treatment to work, **heat and/or vacuum** each item within the affected area. Pay particular attention to carpet, including the underside of area rugs. Carefully vacuum the edges of carpets and floor/wall junctions as well as around any large heavy items of furniture that cannot be moved. Vacuum, launder or 'heat' all your clothes and draperies, and leave on the stripped and vacuumed bed. Be sure to heat badly infested pieces or consider disposing of them. Vacuum closets and drawers. Vacuum all upholstered furniture turning each piece upside down to get the bottom. Pick up all articles off the floor such as toys, papers, boxes, shoes, clothing. Take the vacuum outside and dispose of its contents securely in an outside bin.

Application

A residual quick-drying chemical is sprayed onto surfaces in the area killing most of the adult and larval population within 12 hours of application, then kills any new hatchlings within 2 hours of them contacting the treated surface - well before they have a chance to lay more eggs and thereby breaking the life cycle.

After Treatment

Do not clean or vacuum for at least 14 days following the application to ensure the pesticide is still in place when the larvae emerge. Since eggs and pupa could escape a single treatment, closely **monitor** for any further activity and give us a call before the population has a chance to get established again.