

AFTER - SERVICE CHECKLIST



Species: Clothes Moths , Silverfish

Habitat

Clothes moths like dark, warm areas and high humidity. Most damage inflicted by these pests is done in the warmer months, although with heating and air conditioning units being used more often to make our own lives comfortable, we inadvertently make conditions near to perfect for the moth all year round.

It is the larvae that causes the actual damage to fabrics. They appear to feed off wool, feathers, fur, hair, leather, lint, dust, paper and occasionally cotton, linen, silk and synthetic fibres, but what they are really eating is human residues left behind on these fabrics.

Larvae are unable to fully develop on completely clean fabrics, they need proteins, mineral salts and vitamin B complex found in urine, hair oil, skin, sweat and food particles.

A single clothes moth can lay up to 200-300 eggs at a time.

Silverfish : These insects are a pest in homes and in libraries, where they can damage books. They require very little water but do need a source of sugar or starch in their diet. Silverfish have long antennae and three long tail-like structures (cerci) on the end of the abdomen. Household silverfish have been noted as attacking almost anything that contains food value: paper surfaces, starchy foodstuffs, silk, their own cast skins, other dead insects, cellulose materials (cotton, plant debris), etc. They also feed on glue in book bindings or behind wallpaper, and on paper, paper sizing, cereal grain products and dried meat. They may also damage silk and some synthetic fabrics, but they usually avoid woollens.

Post Treatment Recommendations

- DO** leave residue to settle in/on all treated areas for at least 3 weeks
- DO** wash hands thoroughly if contact is made with powder or chemical residue
- DO** wash straight away any children's toys or accessories that may come into contact with powder or residue
- DO** wash clothes if powder or residue makes contact
- DO NOT** attempt to clean any chemical residues without protective gloves and particulate face mask.
- DO** discard these items after use.
- DO NOT** wash treated areas for at least 3 weeks so as to allow residues to settle completely and therefore be more effective toward breaking the life cycle of the clothes moth.

Prevention Tips

The Larvae thrive on soiled materials. Therefore it is important that no stained or soiled clothes etc. be stored or put away in cupboards or on shelves. Simple stains such as soup, perspiration and beer are an open invitation to attack.

- The build-up of fluff that normally collects in cupboard corners and around the edges of carpets is another ideal breeding place
 - Regular vacuuming of the home is essential, paying particular attention to wardrobes, cupboards, under chairs and lounges, carpet joins along skirtings, cracks and crevices in wooden floors and behind headboards and under beds
- Each summer it is often normal practice to store away winter clothes. By following this simple procedure the risk of an infestation in these clothes can be substantially reduced.
- Firstly, all items of clothing and fabrics should be thoroughly washed or dry-cleaned before storing. They should then be sealed on their hangers in black plastic bags and hung in the sun for 3-4 hours . They can be stored away in the same bags.
- Shaking out all rugs and mats. Cleaning in the crevices of lounges, chairs, etc. Thoroughly cleaning up any stains or spills on carpets.
- Ensure any birds nests within close proximity of the home are eliminated.