

## CARPET BEETLE



*Photo Credit: Jean-Raphaël Guillaumin*

### DESCRIPTION

Adult Carpet Beetles are 1/16 to 1/8 of an inch long, round or oval in shape, and can be either plain black or covered with a mottling of yellow, white, and black scales. The larvae are approximately 1/4 of an inch long, rather stubby looking, and clothed with bands of stiff, erect, brown hairs. The body is wide in the middle but tapers at the end where you'll find a thick tuft of hair.

### BIOLOGY

This insect is found all over the world and gets its name from its habit of feeding on the hair, padding, feathers, or woollen upholstery of furniture. These insects also can feed on a wide variety of materials, including wool, hair, fur, feathers, bristles, and dried blood, glue, and book bindings. They can damage linen, cotton, jute, softwood, and leather when these items are soiled. The adult females lay about 60 eggs in areas where the larvae are able to feed. The eggs hatch in 9 to 15 days and the larvae develop from 70 to 90 days before pupating in their last larval skin. The adults emerge from the pupal skin in 14 to 17 days and may live for another 60 days.

### CONTROL

Successful control of carpet beetles begins with a thorough inspection to find the source of the infestation. These insects are usually first noticed when adults are found. The larval infestation can be just about anywhere, therefore, stored clothing, carpeting – especially in non-traffic areas – stored food, and other possible larval development sites should all be examined. Infested materials should be thoroughly cleaned or discarded. A properly labelled residual insecticide should be carefully applied to cracks, crevices, and along baseboards and the home should be vacuumed carefully with special attention given to the areas along baseboards and under furniture.

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204-233-2500  
888-768-5467

#### Brandon

707 10th St  
204-727-7934  
877-727-7934

#### Regina

1245 Winnipeg St  
306-757-0323  
877-433-4877

#### Saskatoon

1524 Idylwyld Dr N  
306-242-5229  
877-287-2340

#### Calgary

4801 – 32 St SE  
403-272-6006  
877-533-2500

#### Edmonton

8737 118th Ave  
780-477-1671  
877-477-1971

#### Lethbridge

608 13th St N  
403-394-3600  
877-533-2500