**Dermestes Beetles:**

Beetles

**Information and control advice**

**Distribution:**

All these species are often found in the home as the adult beetles fly well and can enter the home through open windows and doors, or via lofts and

under floor areas. They will sometimes inhabit birds nests, it is also therefore advisable to check for nesting birds.

Once inside the home the adult beetles lay up to 200 eggs on a material suitable as food for larvae. They can feed on a wide range of materials including wool, fur, hair, feathers, and scraps of human or animal food and the dried remains of animals or plants.

Usually it is the adult beetles that are first noticed, but these cause very little damage at the larval stage however they often cause damage and contamination of the material they have infested.

# **Significance:**

These beetles are not known to transmit any diseases to human beings and therefore pose no threat to health.

However, control of these pests is advisable to prevent the economic losses that can result from the damage and contamination of household materials and food.

**Control:**

# Hygiene Management and Treatment

Although these beetles may be encountered in the home, their presence



in large numbers is often the result of poor standards of hygiene. Before carrying out any insecticidal control, the areas where the beetles have been found should be thoroughly cleaned to remove any food debris and infested material.

All areas should be treated with a residual, crawling insect insecticidal spray, approved for this specific purpose.

Concentrating the spray around the skirting board area and in a criss-cross pattern on the floor will usually suffice. Remove food from your kitchen cupboards (throwing away contaminated items), and spray them if necessary - they must be dry to the touch before any food is returned and this should be in containers so there is no direct contact between food and treated cupboard/surfaces.

**WHEN USING INSECTICIDES ALWAYS FOLLOW THE MANUFACTURINGS INSTRUCTIONS**.

If you have tried all the above advice, for at least 4 weeks, and still have a problem with beetles in your home, or you would prefer to get professional help, then Lewisham Council can offer you a treatment service. The cost of this is £125 full rate or £62.50 for discretions for one treatment and one retreat should it prove necessary.

If you would like to make an appointment, please contact:

Servicepoint on 020 8314 7171.

## Flour Beetle:

Usually (but not always) introduced to the home in contaminated dry foods

(i.e. cereals and animal foods).

To treat, follow advice as for Dermestes beetles above.

## Grain Weevil:

To treat, follow advice as for Dermestes beetles above.

## Biscuit Beetle:

To treat, follow advice as for Dermestes beetles above.

**Carpet Beetle:**

To treat, follow advice as for Dermestes beetles above.

## Mealworm Beetle:

Check for nesting birds in the loft, old air vents etc. These beetles are very commonly found in old nests where they feed on feathers, excreta etc. They will

migrate to other areas of the house. Remove all nests and debris and treat as described above.

