

Moths

Information and control advice



Moths are quite often found in the home. Usually inadvertently introduced in contaminated foodstuffs but can also be found in birds nests. Although not a risk to health they can cause damage (in the larval or caterpillar stage) to foodstuffs, clothing, carpets, wools, fur, leather etc. as they will eat any natural fibres.

Control can be achieved by removing and disposing of old birds nests, disposing of any contaminated foodstuffs and checking all packages including unopened ones. Check all carpets & rugs for signs of infestation and vacuum the edges of the carpets. Check walls, ceilings and behind pictures, hangings etc. for signs of larvae and/or the webbing produced by the larvae. Clothing, blankets, linen etc. should also be checked and if infested, normal washing procedures should eradicate the problem.

The next step is to apply an insecticide suitable for flying insects. Kitchen cupboards can be sprayed with a crawling insect spray but 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 cupboard surfaces. Other means of treatment include traps, which can be hung up, solid block insecticides in plastic vented containers and ultra violet electric killers.

ALWAYS FOLLOW THE MANUFACTURERS INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE ON THE CONTAINER.

Brown house moth:

Attack a wide variety of items including, cereal products, textiles, leather etc.

Common clothes moth:

Eats animal based products such as leather, wool, fur etc.

Indian meal moth:

This species is nearly always introduced in contaminated foodstuffs such as peanuts, cocoa beans, dried fruit and some cereals. Apart from the bird's nests, these moths should be treated following the advice as given above.

Mill moth:

This moth is found in homes for reasons given above but is more closely associated with cereal products. Treatment is the same as already described.

All treatments for moths should be applied for some time; a minimum of 4 weeks is advisable or as directed in the product instructions. If, after this period, there are no signs of the infestation getting any better our service can be contacted again for further advice.