



DERMESTES *Beetle*

Pest Control Factsheet 3

DERMESTES BEETLES

Dermestes beetles and larvae are common household pests which feed on any animal protein. They are often found in kitchen and larders where they can scavenge food debris and successfully breed under units, appliances and in the gaps between floorboards and wall and floor junctions. They will also feed and breed successfully in areas of buildings where dead rodents, birds and their nests are found.

The types commonly found in dwellings are the Hide Beetle and the Larder Beetle.



*Hide Beetle, Larder Beetle
& Larvae -Actual Size*



(Hide Beetle Larvae)

LIFE CYCLE

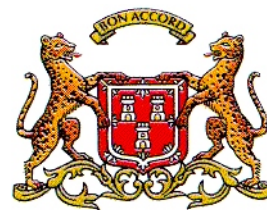
- The female beetle will lay in the region of 200 eggs on dry animal matter.
- Larvae feed mainly on dry and decomposing animal matter but may also feed on vegetable matter.
- The larvae which are brown in colour and are covered with bristle like hairs of different sizes will moult 5 or 6 times.
- They pupate inside animal matter or even wood.
- The complete life cycle i.e. egg to adult will normally take between 2 and 3 months in occupied dwellings.

NON CHEMICAL CONTROL

- Always keep foodstuffs suitably contained.
- Food storage and preparation areas should be maintained in a clean condition. Deposits of food debris etc should be removed from corners, cracks and ledges by means of a vacuum cleaner.
- Packaging materials (boxes, sacks etc) should be removed from food storage areas as these may provide harbourage for these insects.
- Repair and seal cracks and openings in flooring, wall/floor junctions etc.
- Refuse should be suitably contained and refuse storage facilities should be maintained in a clean condition.

CHEMICAL CONTROL

- A residual insecticide, used according to the label instructions, should be applied where infestation levels of Dermestes Beetles are established.
- Food should be removed prior to any insecticide treatment.
- All room surfaces should be thoroughly cleaned before any insecticidal treatment is carried out.



ABERDEEN
CITY COUNCIL

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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PUBLIC HEALTH SIGNIFICANCE

Minimal Significant

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