



ENGLISH HERITAGE

Insect Pests found in Historic Houses and Museums

Many insects are found in buildings and it is important to distinguish between those which are not pests and those that cause damage to objects or the building structure.

A selection of the insects most commonly found in museums and historic houses in the UK are shown on this poster. Most damage is caused by immature insects, either nymphs (silverfish, booklice and woodlice) or larvae (beetles and moths).

The illustrations are magnified and are much larger than life. The white symbol on each picture shows the actual body size of the insects.

For further information on insect identification and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) go to www.collectionslink.org.uk
Collections Trust



Moths

Webbing clothes moth

Tineola bisselliella



Larvae eat wool, fur, feathers, silk and skins.

Case-bearing clothes moth

Tinea pellionella



Larvae eat wool, fur, feathers, silk and skins.

Indian meal moth

Plodia interpunctella



Larvae eat dried food such as cereals and nuts.

Brown house moth

Hofmannophila pseudospretella



Larvae sometimes attack damp wool, fur, feathers and skins.

White-shouldered house moth

Endrosis sarcitrella



Larvae sometimes attack damp wool, fur, feathers and skins.

Other pests

Silverfish

Lepisma saccharina



Nymphs and adults eat the surface of damp paper, books and textiles.

Common booklouse

Liposcelis bostrychophila



Nymphs and adults eat the surface of damp paper and books.

Woodlice

Isopoda



They only attack rotting wood and vegetation.

Pest beetles

Death watch beetle

Xestobium rufovillosum



Larvae attack oak hardwood which has been damp.

Wood weevils

Pentarthrum huttoni and *Euophryum confine*



Larvae only attack really damp wood.

Brown carpet beetle or Vodka beetle

Attagenus smirnovi



Larvae eat wool, fur, feathers, silk and skins.

Two-spot carpet beetle

Attagenus pello



Larder beetle

Dermestes lardarius



Larvae eat wool, fur, feathers, silk and skins.

Cigarette beetle

Lasioderma serricorne



Larvae eat dried food, plant material and freeze-dried animals.

Furniture beetle/woodworm

Anobium punctatum



Larvae attack sapwood of many hardwoods such as oak and ash.

Biscuit beetle or drugstore beetle

Stegobium paniceum



Larvae eat dried food, plant material and freeze dried animals.

Australian spider beetle

Ptinus tectus



Larvae eat dried food and plant material.

Golden spider beetle

Niptus hololeucus



Larvae eat dried food and plant material.

Guernsey carpet beetle

Anthrenus sarnicus



Larvae eat wool, fur, feathers, silk and skins.

Varied carpet beetle

Anthrenus verbasci



Larvae eat wool, fur, feathers, silk and skins.

Non-pest beetles

Mealworm beetle

Tenebrio molitor



Larvae live in bird nests and old cereals.

Black ground beetles

Carabidae



Mainly predators, invading from outside.

Harlequin ladybird

Harmonia axyridis



Invade to hibernate indoors over winter.

Fungus beetles and plaster beetles

Mycetophagidae & Lathridiidae



Larvae eat mould and are indicators of damp conditions.