

STORED PRODUCT MOTHS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

There are several species of stored product moth that can cause extensive damage of dried foods; they are a common pest throughout the UK. Effective moth control is a joint process and requires your co-operation to work. It relies on a combination of good housekeeping practices by you, and strategic use of chemicals by us. There are a few things that you must do before and after the visit to help make the treatment work effectively. Insecticide spraying will not work alone.



Warehouse Moth Indian Meal Moth Flour moth

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO BEFORE WE VISIT?

- Check **ALL** dried food; including cereals, grains, seeds, nuts, tea, spices, pasta, rice etc
- Any infested material should be thrown away immediately.
- Look for the larvae moving within the food substrate; these are small and white as in the picture below.
- Empty out all cupboards of food before treatment is carried out so that all kitchen cupboards can be sprayed.
- Arrange to be out of the treated area for up to three hours after treatment. This is to allow the spray to dry as it can make you cough if inhaled when wet. Once dry it is perfectly safe



Indian Meal Moth & larvae

Textile Moth Facts

- The larvae cause the actual damage as they feed on dried food products
- Larvae migrate upwards to pupate, you might see them hanging on your kitchen ceiling or inside cupboards
- The moths favour dark places, hiding and laying eggs in cracks and under furniture.
- Moths enter your home via open windows, gaps under doors, through cracks and within second hand clothes and furniture.
- The eggs are very resilient, so we carry out multiple treatments to treat larvae that hatch between visits.



Sunflower seeds infested by Indian Meal Moths

WHAT WILL HAPPEN DURING THE VISIT

Visits are usually booked a day in advance, to allow you to carry out the pre-preparation work recommended. Each visit will take around 1 to 1.5 hours. Treatments consist of at least 2 visits spaced approximately one month apart.

- The technician will undertake a thorough inspection of your property to try to find the source and extent of the problem to ensure our treatment is as effective as possible
- The technician will spray the floors and any cracks and crevices that the moths may be hiding in, such as under skirting boards and the insides of cupboards. The spray chemical contains an insecticide and an insect growth regulator and will focus on killing the larvae. Once the spray has been completed the technician will then fog the air of all infested rooms with another chemical to kill the flying adults on contact.
- If there are any areas that you do not want sprayed or fogged because they contain items that are valuable or delicate, please let the technician know before they start.
- The technician will place pheromone sticky pads for monitoring – please do not touch or move these.

3-4 weeks after the previous treatment we will call to arrange the next visit. Each treatment will be exactly the same and the pre-treatment works will need to be carried out prior to every visit.

DURING OUR VISIT

Please arrange for yourself to go out for two to three hours after the treatment – you should not re-enter the property once the technician starts his work.

MONITORS

These are sticky traps used to map the extent of an infestation and where the moths are coming from. They are not used to directly control the moths.

They are baited with a pheromone that attracts the male adult moths.

Please do not throw these away.

RESIDUAL INSECTICIDES

Infested areas are sprayed with an insecticide solution that dries onto the surface. The insecticides we use are not hazardous to people or pets once they have dried. These insecticides remain active for two weeks following the spray. Please refrain from mopping or vacuuming treated surfaces during this time, as it will reduce the effectiveness of the treatment

WHAT TO DO AFTER OUR VISIT

- You **must** remain out of the treated areas for at least 3 hours afterwards.
- Try not to mop the kitchen floor for up to two weeks after treatment, as this will remove the active residue.
- Regularly inspect dried food products for signs of infestation.

If you have any further questions about the treatment or any health and safety concerns please don't hesitate to contact our office for more information.

Find out more about Textile moths (and other pest species) at Microbee:

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