

Carpet Beetles

By

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Appearance and Habits

The larvae of most species are short, rarely over one-fourth inch long, chubby, and covered with erect brown or black bristles all over the body. The larvae of one species is different from the others, may reach a length of one-half inch, elongate, carrot-shaped, golden to chocolate brown and with a tuft of very long, brown hairs at the tail end of the body. The adults are small beetles elliptical in outline, about one-eighth inch long and vary from dull black to mottled to banded backs. These pests are destructive only in the larval stage. It requires from less than one year to as much as three years for the larva to complete its growth, depending on climatic conditions and food.

Control

Rugs and overstuffed furniture that are infested with carpet beetles should be sprayed with five per cent DDT household spray. Spray the top surface of the rug lightly with this material and spray the underside thoroughly. If a pad is being used under the rug, it should also be sprayed. The same material should also be used to treat overstuffed furniture. The spray material should be used to wet thoroughly all possible cracks in the room. Cracks around door and window facings, and mantels should be thoroughly wet. A five per cent DDT dust may be used instead of the spray if desired.

CAUTION: Do not apply the material around open flames to prevent fire hazards.

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