



Larder Beetle

Larder beetles are occasional pests of households where they feed on a wide variety of animal protein-based products. Common foods for these beetles include leather goods, hides, skins, dried fish, pet food, bacon, cheese and feathers.

The adult beetles fly well and may be seen around the house, but infestations normally start either in kitchens where food scraps have built up, in birds' nests or occasionally under floors where a rat or mouse has died.

They rarely cause much damage in the home



Appearance

Adults (above) are 7-10 mm long, dark brown to black, with a lighter stripe across the back. The larvae (below) are worm-like, fairly hairy, dark brown in colour, and appear banded. They are 10-14 mm in length.



Signs of Infestation

Often the first indication of an infestation is finding the moulted skins of the larvae. However, sightings of several adults can also point to this.

Biology

Female beetle lays up to 200 eggs on a food source which hatch within a week. The larvae moult up to 5 or 6 times over a period of 5-8 weeks, the pupate and after 2-4 weeks the adult beetle hatches. The beetles can live up to 6 months. How fast each stage of the lifecycle completes depends on conditions. From egg to adult can be a little as 2 months, or as long as 12 months.

Significance

Larder beetles are serious pests in domestic kitchens, particularly around food cupboards, cookers (where they are attracted by grease or fat) and refrigerators. Most of the damage to food is done by the larval stage.

When mature, Larder Beetles leave their food source and cause damage to surrounding materials by excavating chambers to pupate.

Control

- **Remove any waste food**
- **Thoroughly clean the kitchen and any other food storage areas**
- **Pull out equipment and clean areas that might not be cleaned regularly**
- **After cleaning, spray the area with an insect spray for use with crawling insects.** Try to get one with a 'residual' effect. Make sure that it is suitable for use in food rooms (the packaging should tell you this). Always read the label of an insecticide before deciding to buy it - and follow the safety precautions during use

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- Check stocks of dry foodstuffs such as dry pet food or packet foods. Look for signs of damage or infestation
- **Dispose of any infested foodstuffs into the outside refuse bin**
- Keep any new foods in sealed packed or lidded boxes to prevent them becoming infested
- Check any fur coats or leather goods that have not been used for some time for signs of damage. Dispose of or have treated any damaged items
- You may need to repeat the spray treatment in a few weeks because some insects were pupating at the time of the first treatment. **Repeat as often as you see live adult insects and larvae**

Services from us.

The Borough Council's Pest Control Service can provide a chemical control treatment if you have a problem with Larder Beetle in your home. Our treatment will remain effective for about 4 weeks. You will need to thoroughly clear affected areas before we apply a chemical

- To request our help please call 01782 742590 during office hours.
- Our current charges are detailed on our website at www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk , or available by calling our Customer Services Team on 01782 742590
- Some landlords may pay this charge on your behalf if you live in rented accommodation. .

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