

## Kev's Guide to - Carpet Beetle

### **Description and life cycle**

All carpet beetles have similar biology and feeding habits. The adult beetle is a rounded insect about 4mm long, dark grey with distinct wavy white bands across the body.

The larvae are roughly 4–5mm long and covered in hairs, with dense stiff bristles extending from the rear. Indoors, adults are attracted to light and are often found on window sills. The larvae avoid light and actively feed in dark places like ceiling voids, crevices and folds, and can be found in wardrobes or within upholstered furniture. The larvae develop through a series of moults. As they shed their skins, the empty, hairy skin castings can be seen as a sign of infestation.

Carpet beetles are capable of flight. Their natural habitats are the nests of birds, rodents, insects, and spiders. Adult beetles are pollen feeders and can be found in large numbers in flowers. They can be inadvertently brought into the house in cut flowers and laundry.

Carpet beetle larvae can damage fabrics, furnishings and clothing that contain cotton, wool, silk, hair, fur or feathers. Synthetic items are resistant to attack but blends of synthetic and natural fibres can be damaged.

## **Kev's carpet beetle treatment**

The treatment for carpet beetle starts with an inspection of the home to confirm that we are in fact dealing with carpet beetle. Sometimes carpet beetle can be confused with bed bugs or even ticks.

Once the pest has been confirmed, this will direct us to where we need to treat. Carpet beetle will be found around the skirting boards of carpeted rooms, under couches, around the footing of standing furniture and any cracks or crevices where carpets are found or cloth trim products.

A non-repellent chemical suitable for internal use in domestic and commercial areas would be applied as a surface spray, normally 1 treatment if done correctly is enough and results are fast with life returning to normal within 24 hours of treatment.

We recommend a good vacuum clean 48 hours after treatment to clear up and dead beetles and larvae.



Photo: carpet beetle - [www.agric.wa.gov.au](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au)