

Why are moths a pest?

Moths are considered a nuisance pest and not a risk to human health.

It is the larvae not the adults which cause damage to property; though once a moth reaches adulthood they will lay their eggs amongst materials which will supply food for the developing larvae after they hatch.

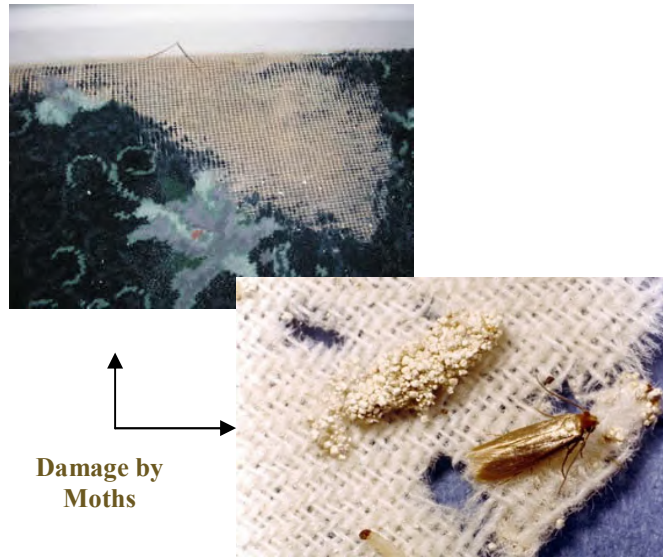


Signs of moths?

You might suspect you have an infestation of moths if:

- * Examine wardrobes and cupboards for larvae cases, moths and damage to materials / clothes
- * In heavier infestations moths could fly out of opened wardrobes / cupboards
- * Webbing might be spotted which resemble spiders webs, this often contain pupal cases
- * At the bottom of the wardrobe or nearby on the ground, you might find small piles / collections of dust or frass (caused by their damage)
- * Also check under chairs, beds and fabric covered furniture
- * Carpets could also be damaged

- * **Note:** larvae tend to consume natural fibres such as cotton, wool, fur and silk. Man made fibres with as little as 25% natural fibre content will also be at risk.



Damage by Moths

How to prevent an infestation?

It can be difficult to completely prevent problems with moths. They are attracted to light and so can easily find their way into homes through open windows.

They can also be attracted into the structure of the home by birds nests and invade the house from there.

The following guidance may help prevent future infestations:

- * Inspect clothing (especially those not often removed from cupboards) for signs of moths and larvae
- * Fabrics / clothing stored over a long period should be sealed plastic bags or cases
- * **Vacuum regularly** , including hidden areas, inside cupboards and wardrobes
- * Good general hygiene will also help prevent moths as they are attracted to the nutrition in organic dirt
- * Ensure that you inspect lofts, gutters and eaves for birds nests. (Some birds are protected and so you should only remove when they have finished nesting)
- * Seal harbourage points in cracks in walls or skirting



- * Using cedar oil or lining cupboards with cedar is also used to repel and (in certain cedars) kill moths and their larvae.
- * Insecticidal strips can also be used to hang in wardrobes and door.

Control Methods

How to treat an infestation

To treat an infestation of moths the following steps should be taken:

- * Vacuum all the affected areas **thoroughly**
- * Remove any damaged clothing / fabric and dispose of
- * Inspect any salvageable clothing or fabric and remove any larvae before washing or dry cleaning
- * Using an insecticidal spray (available from most DIY / Garden Centres), spray wardrobes, drawers, around carpet edges, skirting boards and cracks
- * Always ensure you read the instructions **BEFORE** using the product
- * **Large infestations may require treatment by a qualified Pest Controller**

Warning : Mothballs (naphthalene) are considered dangerous and so are no longer used.

Leeds City Council's Service

If you have a problem with moths Leeds City Council offer a competitively priced service for both domestic and commercial properties.

For further information or to book a treatment



Contact us

If you have any questions about the information in this leaflet or would like professional advice please contact
Leeds City Council Corporate Call Centre
0113 2224406
or email
pests@leeds.gov.uk

Further information and copies of this leaflet can be found on the council's website
www.leeds.gov.uk/pestcontrol