

Why is Woodworm a pest?

Furniture beetle or woodworm as it is more commonly known occurs in domestic properties and is the result of the larval stage or woodworm boring through the wood as it feeds.

It is this stage as it bores into wood which can cause **significant damage**.

Woodworm is not a public health hazard but is a nuisance pest. If the woodworm infests the timbers that support the house, it could cause structural damage which, in severe cases it could lead to the property becoming unsafe.



What causes Woodworm?

The habitat for woodworm & wood boring insects in nature are trees.

Adult furniture beetles do not fly very far but they can get into houses through open windows or can be brought in on washing or old furniture / timber that has been used a previous infested house and then reused.



What are the signs Woodworm?

Eggs are laid in the crevices of timber by the female beetle and cannot be seen by the naked eye. If the timber becomes broken galleries or tunnels created by the developing larvae can sometimes be seen.

As the lifecycle comes to an end (2-4 years) the larvae pupates and turns into a beetle, which bites through the surface of the timber creating the small round holes we all associate with the presence of woodworm.

Typical signs might be:

- Fresh exit holes in timber which resemble little dart holes
- Fine powdery dust (frass) around holes or on the ground
- Crumbly edges to boards and joists
- Weak and damaged flooring / wood (sometimes the floor might give way in some areas which can indicate a serious problem)
- Dead beetles collecting on the window sills or seen flying about in May or June



How can I prevent Woodworm?

A few simple tips can help prevent a problem:

- Inspect any new or second hand furniture for any signs of infestation before bringing it into the house

- Furniture beetles like damp wood i.e. bathrooms so try keep areas well ventilated and dry
- Remove pieces of furniture or non-structural timber that are suspected of being to avoid the woodworm spreading
- Treat any new timber with a chemical preserver or buy pretreated tanalised timber

Can I do anything to Treat the problem?

If you suspect a woodworm problem then you should always seek professional advice as an infestation could be far worse than first appears and treatment could be required to inaccessible areas.

If an infestation is found to be minor or localized then it would be possible to treat the problem yourself with a chemical spray found in most DIY and Garden Centers.

Woodworm in furniture is treated by injecting woodworm fluid directly into the open holes / galleries the adults make when they emerge.

Untreated wood can be painted with the fluid to further protect it.

Always seek professional help and advise due to the severe complications which can arise when dealing with an infestation.

ALWAYS READ THE LABEL OF ANY CHEMICAL PRODUCT AND ENSURE YOU FOLLOW ALL THE HEALTH AND SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

Professional Help

If you think you may have a problem with Woodworm then please contact the Property Care Association who will be able to recommend a reputable contractor in your area.

<http://www.property-care.org/>

Or call : 08701 216 737

This website can also provide further advice on Woodworm.

The council does not offer a service for the treatment of Woodworm .

Internal departments and ALMO's should contact 0113 2224406 for further information.



Pest information leaflet

Woodworm



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



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