

Drugstore Beetle



Appearance:

Adult drugstore beetles are about 1/16 to 1/8 inch long, oval shaped and reddish brown to brown in color. This beetle has numerous tiny pits on the elytra (wing covers) that are arranged in longitudinal rows. The head and prothorax (front portion of the thorax) are bent downward, making the head barely or not visible from above and giving this beetle a strongly humpbacked appearance. The mature larva is about 1/8 inch long, white and C-shaped, with many short hairs and 6 tiny legs.

Habitat:

The drugstore beetle attacks a host of dry items that include many household foods and spices, as well as such things as drugs, hair, horn, leather, dead insects, dry carcasses, and museum specimens. Most commonly attacked are bread, flour, meal, breakfast foods, snack foods and condiments such as red pepper. It is also a pest of books and manuscripts. Adults can fly and they are attracted to light.

Diet:

Larvae can damage whole grains or seeds; adults feed on any dried, food-based material.

Solutions:

What you can do: The first step towards stopping an infestation of drugstore beetles is locating and, if possible, removing the food source(s) or excluding the breeding site(s). Beetles and larvae can be removed using a vacuum cleaner fitted with a hose attachment. Dried foods/ingredients, spices, snack foods and other vulnerable items should be stored in airtight, thick-walled containers until needed.

Professional Solution: A Quik-Kill service technician will assist in locating drugstore beetle breeding sources and making recommendations for preventing re-infestation. Dead animals / carcasses will be removed, if accessible. A spot treatment of an infested structural void or a crack and crevice treatment into cabinet and shelf corner seams / junctures may be applied by the technician to stop additional pest breeding.



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