



In need of some assistance with a moth infestation?

Call us today

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MOTHS: Pest Advice

London Network for Pest Solutions Ltd provides information leaflets on the following pests:

Rats • Mice • Cockroaches • Squirrels • Bed Bugs • Wasps •
Flies • Fleas • Moths • Ants • Foxes • Birds • Spiders

What do moths look like?

Moths can vary dramatically in their appearance and size depending on the species, but they typically have two pairs of wings which are covered in scales. Most indoor feeding moths have a wingspan of less than 2cm, but are still visible to the naked eye, and come in a variety of colours such as red, brown, grey, white and silver. Their larvae hatch from sticky eggs and are white caterpillars with golden-brown heads.

Where do moths live?

Although moths are attracted by light, they actually like to live in dark, undisturbed areas. Think wardrobes, boxes and kitchen cupboards, as they like to stay close to their food sources where possible.

What do moths eat?

The myth of a moth nibbling on cashmere jumpers is exactly that – a myth. Most adult moths don't feed; the real culprits are their larvae. Textile moth larvae feast on keratin, the protein found in hair and skin particles, and natural materials such as wool, cotton, silk and leather. This makes your wardrobe a delectable smorgasbord of fabric, particles and bodily fluids, ideal for a feeding frenzy. Some species prefer to invade your pantry, contaminating dry foods such as flour and grains by laying eggs, making them unfit for consumption.

DID YOU KNOW?

Moths and butterflies are part of the same group of insects, Lepidopteran, which means 'scale wings'. They form the second largest group in the insect world.



DID YOU KNOW?

A phobia of moths is called Mottephobia

Are moths bad for my health?

With female moths laying between 40 and 200 eggs depending on the species, moth larvae can do untold damage to your delicates! Although these creatures can ruin your favourite clothes, create holes in boxes and fly around making a noise at night, they pose no significant health risk. The biggest danger to human and pet health is through food contaminated with larvae eggs, as they can cause allergic reactions and, in some extreme cases, intestinal diseases.

What are the signs of infestation?

Most people spot signs of a moth infestation by finding holes in their clothes, as well as the presence of a musty smell in your wardrobes and cupboards. Keep an eye out for webbing or cocoons in corners. When it comes to spotting moths in your pantry or kitchen cupboards, they sometimes leave trails of a sticky secretion. You may also be able to spot the small larvae in open packets of dried food, such as cereals and flour.

How can I prevent moths in my house?

Keep your clothes, homes and cupboards as clean as possible. Regular vacuuming of carpets, where moths can lay their eggs, and cleaning your food storage areas will discourage moth infestations.

As moths are mostly drawn to human sweat, hair and bodily fluid left on clothing, wash your clothes before putting them away. If you are packing clothes or fabrics away for long periods of time, store them in plastic airtight containers. Ensuring that your wardrobe is well ventilated can also help, as can using hangers made from cedar, which is a natural moth repellent.

How to get rid of moths

Moth infestations can be difficult to tackle as they often spread quickly, so it's best to call in the experts to ensure that every trace of the moths and moth larvae can be eliminated, effectively and efficiently. The key to successful treatment is early identification of the moth species; textile moths which nibble on clothing, or Stored Product Pests which feed on the goods in your pantry. Professional pest controllers will have a range of solutions, such as specialist insecticides, sprays and treatments which have been designed to remove the infestation.

In the short-term, if you do find signs of moths in your wardrobes, immediately wash all clothes on a high temperature to kill the eggs. Moth-repellent herbs – such as rosemary, thyme, cloves, lavender and bay – can be hung up in wardrobes in small cloth bags, or bought in oil forms to spray directly on to contaminated areas and clothes. If you suspect a moth infestation in your kitchen, dispose of any open containers of food, even if you cannot see signs of moth infestation, and clean your cupboards with a water and vinegar solution.

