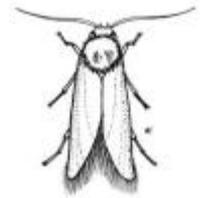


Creepy Crawlies

Moths

Clothes moths neither carry germs nor do they spread disease, hence their presence does not constitute a risk to health. However, the activities of the larvae will cause damage and can ruin carpets, animal furs and leathers.

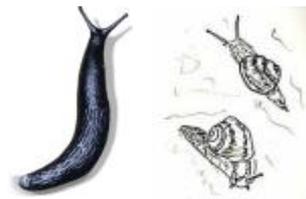


Thoroughly clean and vacuum area to remove any eggs, larvae and pupae. Use an insecticide spray (Fly and Crawling Insect). Spray all areas and under furniture. Leave for a couple of weeks to work on grub. If a flying adult moth, spray room before leaving house/going to bed.

Slugs & Snails

They can be an unpleasant nuisance, leaving slimy trails across floors etc, but they do not spread disease and their presence does not constitute a risk to health.

Slug pellets may be applied externally. Try also sinking a jar into the ground and filling it two thirds full of stale beer. The slugs/snails will then fall in and drown.



Bran will attract slugs and snails from miles around and can then be picked off and disposed of safely.

Silverfish

Usually found in damp conditions such as kitchens, larders and bathrooms. Nocturnal in habit, coming out in search of food at night. These insects may be controlled by sprays or dusts suitable for the control of crawling insects. The insecticide should be blown or brushed into crevices e.g. behind skirting, cupboards etc. Aerosol sprays for the control of crawling insects are suitable for small infestations or try ant powder.



Earwigs

Live primarily outdoors. Commonly found in burrows under vegetable debris and crevices in walls and will normally only enter buildings towards autumn in search of protection from cold weather. Earwigs are generally nocturnal and although they do have wings and are capable of flying, rarely do so.



Earwigs are of nuisance value only since they neither spread disease nor constitute any risk to health. As a predator of aphids (greenfly etc) they may be considered as beneficial in horticulture. Vacuum regularly in those rooms which may have been 'invaded' probably the most convenient way of dealing with them indoors. Use a crawling insect powder suitable for garden application and apply to areas most likely to offer harbourage.

Woodlice

The most common, the garden woodlouse is approximately 15 mm in length. The woodlice are considered as unpleasant and unacceptable inside premises, however they do not spread disease and does not constitute any risk to health.



Vacuum regularly in those rooms which have been 'invaded' which is the most convenient way of dealing with them indoors. Clear debris and refuse from the garden, particularly that close to affected buildings and apply a crawling insect powder suitable for garden use to likely areas of harbourage, e.g. beneath paving slabs.

Biscuit Beetles

The biscuit beetle is 2-3mm long and is mid to dark-matt brown in colour and has finely ridged wing cases and a loose three-segmented antenna. Biscuit beetles are often confused with furniture beetles/woodworm.



The biscuit beetle is found worldwide and is common throughout the UK. It is found in shops and domestic larders infesting a wide variety of food stuffs such as flour, bread, breakfast cereals and other cereal products, beverage concentrates, spices, biscuits, packet soups and drinks,

The female biscuit beetle lays its eggs either in food stuffs or the surrounding areas. Around two weeks later the eggs will hatch and tiny larvae will emerge and infest food stuff in the area, often penetrating packaging.

The larvae will live inside the packets of food stuff for two to five months where they will continue to grow and moult. Once they have reach a full grown length of 5mm they find movement difficult and will construct a cocoon around them.

The pupal stage lasts two to three weeks then the adults may remain in the cocoon for a further two weeks before emerging. On emerging the adults disperse and live without feeding for up eight weeks. Mating takes place soon after the adult has emerged and the female will then lay her eggs before she dies.

The biscuit beetle causes serious problems for the food industry due to its widespread occurrence and its ability to breach most forms of food packaging. The source of the infestation should be traced and where possible eliminated. Secondary sources of infestation such as birds nests and food residues should be removed as the biscuit beetle can use these in which to breed and re-infest new food stuff.

Areas used for storing food should be kept scrupulously clean and stock rotation is important along with regular cleaning and inspection.

Free Internet access is available at all South Gloucestershire libraries

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