



Black carpet beetle

Varied carpet beetle

**A-1 Pest Control Limited** Since 1969

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## Carpet Beetles

Complete Metamorphosis – Egg, Larva, Pupa, and Adult

Carpet beetles are scavengers that feed on a wide variety of plant and animal substances such as wool, cotton, linen, leather, hair, velvet, cereals, flour, cat and dog food to name a few. These insects commonly breed outdoors and can be found in every home. The larval stage is where the damage occurs. Since they are most active in undisturbed, dark areas, most damage is done to stored products or materials.

Adult black carpet beetles are black, shiny, and oval in shape and up to 5 mm in length. Their larvae are carrot shaped with a brush of bristles at the end and are dark brown to golden in colour. The period from egg to adult is normally 1 year but may last longer depending on food and temperature.

Varied carpet beetle adults are smaller and measure approximately 2-3 mm in length. The back of their body is black in the centre, with an irregular arrangement of brown, white, and yellowish scales. Their larvae are light to dark brown and have 3 pairs of hair tufts along the rear abdomen, are wider at the back than the front, and measure 4-5 mm in length. The period from egg to adult is normally 1 year but may last longer depending on food and temperature.

### How to prepare your unit for treatment

1. Pick up all articles from the floor. (this includes toys & clothing)
2. Remove items from under beds & bottom of closets.
3. Vacuum entire house and dispose of the vacuum bag or debris.
4. Wash all floors **prior** to treatment. **Floors should not be washed for 25 days following treatment.**
5. Fish tanks should be covered with a towel or blanket and the air supply **must be unplugged.**
6. People and pets must remain out for at least 4-6 hours to allow adequate drying time. If you are pregnant or have asthma you should leave for at least 8 hours or overnight.
7. Inspect for source of infestation and dispose of infested items or treat by freezing below zero for 72 hours.