

Cigarette and Drugstore Beetles: Prevention Tips



Cigarette and drugstore beetles can be a problem anywhere dry ingredients, foods, or plants are stored or processed. They can also be an issue in facilities that have animal or plant products. Use these expert tips to help prevent these destructive pests from eating away at your goods.

Where you might see them

- Receiving areas and warehouses where dried foods are stored.
- Facilities where dried foods are processed: milling, coating, and sifting areas.
- Areas where animals, plants, and their byproducts are found: museums, pet stores, and grooming rooms.
- Operations that have ongoing rodent or bird issues, since they can infest dead animals and nesting areas.
- Books can also be attractive to these beetles – they will bore through.

Tips for prevention

- Seal all cracks and crevices, especially in high-risk areas for dust.
- Because these pests have a long development cycle, having an inspection policy for incoming goods is paramount. Reject items that show signs of infestation. Look for small holes in packaging and adult beetles between shrink wrap.
- Conduct regular deep cleaning to eliminate product and dust build-up.
- In museums, periodic inspection of susceptible specimens is key for early detection.
- Work with your pest control provider to clean up dead animals, nests, and droppings.



ID and biology

- Adult cigarette and drugstore beetles have a similar appearance.
- Adult beetles are approximately 2-3.5 mm.
- Beetle larvae are white, c-shaped, and about the same length as an adult.
- Larvae go through 4-6 phases.
- Cigarette beetle larvae stage lasts 35-70 days.
- Drugstore beetle larvae stage lasts 4-5 months.
- Adults of both beetles will fly and are attracted to light.

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