

Warehouse Beetles: Prevention Tips

Once warehouse beetles invade, they can contaminate and destroy pet foods, grains, and other dried plant materials. In fact, they have been known to attack more than 90 products. Use these tips to help keep your business protected against these destructive pests.

Where you might see them

- Pet food storage areas, aisles, and dust under shelves can be high activity zones.
- In processing facilities: coating and sifting rooms or other areas where large amounts of product dust is created.
- Grain processing areas: elevators, hammer mills, and processing towers.
- Areas where product dust settles: electrical boxes, equipment, and crevices.
- Warehouses that store any grain or dried plant products can experience issues.
- Corners where product accumulates and is left uncleaned can become a hotspot.
- Facilities that have ongoing rodent or bird problems can have warehouse beetle problems, as this pest may feed on dead birds and rodents.

Tips for prevention

- Conduct regular deep cleaning to eliminate product and dust build-up.
- Seal all cracks and crevices, especially in high-risk areas for dust.
- Inspect all incoming goods for signs of beetle activity. Infestations can start with incoming contaminated products.
- Vacuum under shelves and gondolas to remove spilled products.
- Use the First In, First Out method of product rotation to reduce the likelihood of products becoming infested.
- Know your facility's hot spots and develop a master cleaning schedule that addresses them.
- These pests can come into a facility from outside, so use pheromone traps to monitor for potential introduction.
- If you have rodent or bird issues, work with your pest control provider to clean up dead animals, nests, and droppings.



ID and biology

- Adult warehouse beetles are approximately 1/8-inch long, brownish-black in color, and are able to fly.
- Warehouse beetle larvae are about 1/4-inch in length and can sometimes be seen crawling out of infested products.
- Larvae go through six phases and change color as they mature, from yellowish white to dark brown.
- Larvae have long hairs on them in every instar phase.

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