

LARDER BEETLE

What Do Larder Beetles Look Like?

The adult Larder Beetle is small, dark brown to black, 6 to 9mm (1/4 to 1/3 inch) in length. They have a pale yellowish-brown to reddish band across the back with six black dots on each side.



The larvae are brown, hairy, worm-like in appearance, with 2 short, curved stiff spines on the top of the last segment.



What is Their History?

The Larder Beetle enters homes, if not all ready in the house, in May—June to look for food and will lay eggs in cracks (such as around baseboards, windows and door frames). The female can lay about 100-150 eggs, which take about 10-12 days to hatch into larvae.

Why Are They A Problem?

Larder beetles are a very common pest in homes. They contaminate and damage a variety of foods (eg: meats, cheeses, tobacco, dried fish, cereal).

They may also feed on a variety of other materials (eg: dead flies, pet food, hides, hair, skin, feathers).

How Do I Control Them?

- ◆ Inspect foods for larder beetles. Throw out contaminated food.
- ◆ Cleaning and housekeeping will help remove any food bits that may attract the beetle.
- ◆ Keep foods in containers that are insect-proof (eg: plastic tubs with lids, sealer jars)
- ◆ Keep pet food in containers with a lid. Insects in pet food may be controlled by heating the pet food to 135-140°F for 30 minutes or by freezing for several days.
- ◆ Seal cracks around windows and door frames with caulking.
- ◆ Keep flies out of your home by using screens on windows.
- ◆ Catch larvae and beetles and destroy.



Where Can I Get More Information?

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Contact your Environmental Health Officer:

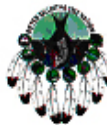
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Lac La Ronge Indian Band	953-7248
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Meadow Lake Tribal Council	236-8261



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Adapted from:

University of Rhode Island Fact sheet; Prince Edward Island
Agriculture Fact sheet; U of A Insect Pests of the Prairies.

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Photo by Diane Williamson