

FACT SHEET Pantry Moth

Pantry Moth in Our Environment

Pantry moths, also known as Indian meal moths, are attracted to dry foods, like grains, flour, dried fruit, biscuits, seeds, nuts, powdered milk and more. Adults' wings are bicoloured cream and brown with a length of approximately 8-9 mm, while larvae are creamy white and approximately 12 mm long. They're a major pest to flour mills, processing plants. Commonly found inside food packaging, this is how they enter kitchen pantries, spoiling foods.

Pantry Moth Control

Management and treatment of pantry moths can only be achieved through a team effort between you and the technician. For the treatment to be effective, the client must be involved both before and after the treatment.

Control can be achieved in a number of ways. Contaminated food sources should be removed and disposed, and the infested area needs to be thoroughly cleaned and dried out. Chemical measures to kill adults that may seek cover in cracks and crevices should be used, for example, space sprays.

Precautions Before and After Treatment

After the treatment, allow time for the treatment to take effect (as advised by the technician). Then, ensure any cracks or crevices in the pantry and/or cupboards are properly sealed to eliminate hiding places. Any incoming dry foods must be inspected before entering your property as moths may be trapped inside food packaging during manufacturing.

Remove and properly dispose of packaging and seal foods in airtight containers and ensure the kitchen and food storage areas well ventilated.

How to Get the Best From Your Treatment

- Maintain high standards of hygiene and stanitation to prevent build up of food materials.
- Discard food if unused for long periods of time.
- Food industries: regular and extensive inspection of premises, stock rotation and equipment cleaning and maintenance.

What to Expect After Your Treatment

In extreme cases, a follow-up visit may be required within a week to inspect and/or re-treat. However, if the treatment is successful and the client has followed the provided recommendations, the pantry moth infestation should be under control.

Pantry Moth Identification



A. Indian Meal Moth



C. Moth Larvae Stored Food Infestation



B. Moth Larvae



D. Adult & Larvae Moth in Soybeans

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