



Biscuit beetles

This fact sheet can be made available in other languages or formats on request by contacting 0161 770 6666. For further information please see our detailed fact sheet Information for all.

The council offers a chargeable service to get rid of biscuit beetles; however no guarantee can be given that the infestation will be totally eliminated. The following provides some advice.

What are biscuit beetles?

They are small reddish-brown beetles, 2 to 3 mm long. They are relatives of the woodworm beetle and may sometimes be mistaken for woodworm due to their similar appearance.

Where can they be found?

Known in the U.S.A. as Drug Store Beetles, this species is found world-wide and is common throughout the British Isles.

The larvae or immature stages of the beetle feed almost exclusively on seeds and grain or commodities manufactured from grain such as flour, bread, biscuits and animal feeds. In homes, they often originate from birds' nests where they feed on grass seeds. They have also been found in old baits used for rodents, in bread 'sculptures' and feeding on the seeds of dried flower arrangements. Food debris under the edges of fitted carpets and inside upholstered furniture has also resulted in infestations of biscuit beetle. The adult beetle does not feed but will fly towards light, this is why they are often found indoors on window cills.

Are biscuit beetles harmful?

No, these insects are of no direct threat to health but their presence is not desirable.

How to get rid of biscuit beetles

Whilst the use of insecticide sprays and dusts are of some value in controlling an infestation, the insects will **not** be eliminated until the source of infestation has been found and removed.

Make sure that you use any insecticide safely. Read the label and follow any instructions carefully.

Contacting us

If you would like more information about biscuit beetles and pests in general you can contact us by:

Writing to

Pest Control Section, Chadderton Town Hall, Middleton Road, Chadderton, Oldham, OL9 6PP

Phoning

0161 770 4509

Faxing

0161 770 4500

Emailing

pestcontrol@oldham.gov.uk

For more information about pests and pest control please see our other detailed fact sheets listed below:

- [Pest control](#)
- [Australian spider beetles](#)
- [Bed bugs](#)
- [Brown rats](#)
- [Carpet beetles](#)
- [Clover mites](#)
- [Cluster Flies](#)
- [Devil's coach-horses](#)
- [Feral pigeons](#)
- [Fleas in the home](#)
- [How to deter foxes](#)
- [Garden ants](#)
- [German cockroaches](#)
- [Golden spider beetles](#)
- [Grey squirrels](#)

- **House mice**
- **Larder beetles**
- **Millipedes**
- **Oriental cockroaches**
- **Psocids**
- **Silverfish**
- **Slugs indoors**
- **Wasps**
- **Woodlice**

We value your comments and suggestions

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If you wish to make a comment about our services you can e-mail us on [**customer.feedback@oldham.gov.uk**](mailto:customer.feedback@oldham.gov.uk)

or you can phone us on 0161 770 4191

or you can write to us:

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