

CLOTHING MOTHS

Description: The most common clothes moths are the webbing clothes moth, *Tineola bisselliella*, and casemaking moth, *Tinea pellionella*. Both adult moths are yellowish or buff-colored with a ½ inch wingspread. Mature larvae are about ½ inch long and white with dark heads. Webbing clothes moth larvae spin silken webbing to form a feeding tube. Casemaking clothes moth larvae spin a protective case around their bodies that they drag along with them.

Damage: The larvae of clothes moth feed and cause damage. Moths do not feed. Larvae feed on wool, hair and feather products. Clothing, carpets, furs, blankets, upholstery, piano felts, brush bristles, and other items are subject to attack. They will also feed on synthetic fabrics if they are mixed with wool.

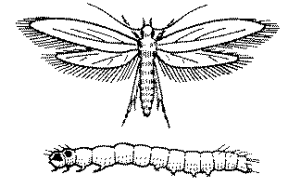
Larvae chew small holes that are scattered throughout the material. Unfortunately only a few holes can ruin valued possessions. Prevention and control of clothes moths are very important.

Control: A successful clothing moth control program should combine several methods.

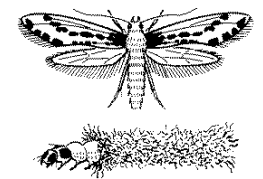
- Vacuum storage areas such as closets, drawers and shelves. Remove all debris.
- Moths cannot complete life cycle on clean processed wool. Fabrics must be contaminated with food, beverage, sweat, urine or other stain. The importance of storing only laundered or dry cleaned materials cannot be overemphasized.
- Store materials in a cool dry area. Clothing moths thrive and multiply in warm, humid conditions.
- Whenever possible, store clean materials in tightly closed containers such as chests, boxes or bags.
- Cedar chests protect against moths if they close tightly. Cedar oil repels moths but does not kill them.

Chemical control:

- After thorough cleaning of storage areas, apply pyrethrum sprays.



Tineola bisselliella



Tinea pellionella