Your Local Pests

House Fly

Flies are a major health risk and are vectors of a large number of diseases and organisms. Among the diseases carried are anthrax, gastro-enteritis, dysentery, typhoid, polio, salmonella and tuberculosis.

Cockroaches

US studies show that millions of people world-wide are allergic to cockroaches (particularly asthmatics). Up to 61% of Roach shells, faeces, blood and digestive enzymes contain proteins which cause allergies. These proteins linger long after the insects are gone. Cockroaches produce filth, contaminate food, pollute water supplies and are vectors of many diseases such as salmonella, gastroenteritis, staphylococcus, diarrhoea and typhoid.

Fleas

Fleas are parasites, feeding on blood from humans or other warm blooded animals like cats and dogs. A skin reaction to a flea bite appears as a slightly raised red and itchy bump on the lower legs. Sometimes these sores bleed. Fleas are attracted to body heat, movement and exhaled carbon dioxide.

Ants

Ants are among the most prevalent pests in households. They are also found in restaurants, hospitals, offices, warehouses and other buildings where they can find food, water and shelter.

Psocids, Book Lice

Psocids or Book Lice have become an increasingly recognised pest of stored food products and grain. Products left partially used and open in a cupboard will absorb water vapour and attract Psocids in the area.

Silverfish

Silverfish are considered a household pest due to their consumption and destruction of property. Although they are responsible for the contamination of food and other types of damage they do not transmit disease.

Spiders

One of the most common misconceptions of spiders is that they are insects. Spiders are arachnids and are closely related to mites, ticks and scorpions. House Spiders are common throughout the world and their webs can be found in corners, basements, crawlspaces, under furniture and around windows.

Wasps

Without natural predators introduced wasp species German or Paper was numbers have soared. They threaten forest ecosystems, particularly beech forests and impact our forestry and the tourism industries.

Whitetails

White-tails preferred habitat is under bark, rocks and plants. They are also known to move indoors during the winter to seek shelter from the cold and hunt the Common House Spider. The nests of white-tails are often found in sub-floors and roof-voids.

Midge Fly

Non-biting midges resemble mosquitoes but are harmless. Humming swarms can be found around water in late afternoons or taking cover in foliage surrounding ponds or homes.

Carpet Beetle

It is the short fat hairy larvae of these insects, known as woolly bears, that do damage to woollen carpets and other items. Eggs are laid in cracks and crevices close to or under wool, fur or feathers. The larvae will grow to 5 mm long and are voracious feeders which will rapidly make holes in natural material. Clean cotton items are not normally attacked although larvae may bore through them on their way out of a feather cushion. The damage is often mistaken for clothes moth damage.

Carpet beetle larvae may often be found in birds' nests and animal burrows. Once established, they can be difficult to eradicate because the larvae can forage widely and may take some years to complete development. The normal life cycle is one to two years.

Case Bearing Moth

Case Bearing Larvae

The **common clothes moth** (*Tineola bisselliella*) and the **case-bearing clothes moth** (*Tinea pellionella*) are the main pest species. Both will attack and damage carpets, upholstery, clothing and animal specimens. The larvae of the case-bearing clothes moth can damage synthetic fibres for use in their 'sleeping-bag-like' case.
The adults of both species are small, dull, grey-brown moths 5-8 mm long with wings folded back close to the body when not flying. The adult moth lays eggs in dark areas in fur, feathers, skin, wool or sometimes silk. The larvae are small pale grubs with darker heads. They are voracious feeders which will grow to 5 mm long. They rapidly make holes in woollen textiles, animal specimens, fur and feathers. The larvae of the case bearing moth will look like small cigar-shaped bundles of fibres as if rolled between finger and thumb; the larva head may be seen sticking out one end.

Bee Swarm

Bees are flying insects, closely related to wasps and ants. They are adapted for feeding on nectar and can inject a painful sting in humans when disturbed. Although generally they are not considered a pest, there are times when their needs can come into conflict with people. When their nesting sites are disturbed they can become aggressive.

Mice

The House Mouse is considered one of the most troublesome and economically significant pests in New Zealand. Mice thrive under a variety of conditions in and around homes and farms. They contaminate food preparation surfaces with their faeces that contain bacteria that causes food poisoning.

Rats

There are three different types of rats found in New Zealand. Rats threaten the long-term survival of native species. Rat control is an on-going job that occurs throughout New Zealand.