

Summary of the commonest insect pests and damage in museums

Pest	Type of damage	Materials damaged
Woodworm/ Furniture beetle <i>Anobium punctatum</i>	Small 2mm round exit holes, gritty frass in tunnels	Sapwood of hardwoods, ply with animal glue, some composite cellulose materials and books
Death-watch beetle <i>Xestobium rufovillosum</i>	Large 3mm exit holes, rounded frass in tunnels	Structural hardwoods particularly when in contact with damp walls
Powderpost beetle <i>Lyctus brunneus</i>	Small 2mm round exit holes, fine talc-like frass in tunnels	Starchy wood
Wood weevil <i>Euophryum confine</i>	Surface damage and holes on damp wood	Damp wood, paper and books
Carpet beetle <i>Anthrenus</i> sp	Irregular holes in textiles, loose fur, short hairy cast skins of larvae	Bird and mammal skins, insect specimens, wool textiles
Carpet/Fur beetle <i>Attagenus</i> sp	Irregular holes in textiles, loose fur, long banded cast skins of larvae	Bird and mammal skins, insect specimens, wool textiles
Webbing clothes moth <i>Tineola bisselliella</i>	Large irregular holes with quantities of silk webbing tubes and gritty frass	Wool, fur and feather textiles. Bird and mammal skins
Case-bearing clothes moth <i>Tinea pellionella</i>	Irregular holes and grazed fabric with loose silk bags	Wool, fur and feather textiles, bird and mammal skins
Biscuit beetle <i>Stegobium paniceum</i>	Round exit holes and gritty dust	Dried food and spices, starchy plant specimens and seed heads, papier-mâché, freeze dried animal specimens
Cigarette beetle <i>Lasioderma serricornis</i>	Round exit holes and gritty dust	Dried food and tobacco, starchy plant specimens and seed heads, freeze dried animal specimens
Spider beetle <i>Ptinus</i> sp	Some holes or cavities, spherical silk pupal bags	Starchy dried plant specimens and seed heads, animal specimens
Booklouse <i>Liposcelis</i> sp	Scratched and eroded surface of materials	Starchy paper and glues.
Silverfish <i>Lepisma</i> sp	Irregular scratched and eroded surface of materials	Damp paper and textiles, animal glue Silverfish are very partial to paper labels on objects.
Frass is the fine powdery debris left by insects and is mostly excrement with fragments of the material it is boring through or eating.		