

Pest Gazette

Brought to you by **Everett Milberger Pest Control, Inc.**



Safety Tips for a Summer of Fun in the Sun

- Coil up hoses so that nobody trips.
- Disconnect any hoses after use or use backflow preventers (available at hardware stores) to prevent puddle water from getting into the house water supply.
- Never use hoses near electrical motors or outlets.
- Never run an extension cord outside unless you are sure that the outlet is protected by a Ground Fault Interrupter. Wet areas may cause a short and the regular circuit breaker may take too long to shut off the power, leading to injury or worse.
- Test your Ground Fault Interrupters to make sure that they work by punching the *test* button. These are sometimes located in the house. After you hit the *test* button, the outlet outside should not work. After testing, punch *reset*.
- Store all lawn care liquids safely away from children.
- Post the **most current** Poison Control phone number on your refrigerator in case children ingest cleaning materials or other household products.
- Never mix bleach and ammonia. The gas that is produced may be deadly.
- When mixing household cleaning materials, never measure with spoons or cups used for food, even if you thoroughly clean the utensils afterwards.
- Always look for an expiration date on cleaning materials and dispose of out-of-date products properly according to instructions on the container.

How to De-Skunk Your Dog

This time of year, skunks are active in many parts of the country. Sometimes dogs will get close enough to skunks to get "sprayed." This creates a very noxious situation when the dog comes inside. Kansas State University suggests the following home remedy to "de-skunk" a dog:

De-Skunking Solution

- One quart of 3% hydrogen peroxide
- One-fourth cup baking soda (sodium bicarbonate)
- One-teaspoon liquid soap

Wet the animal down, then apply the mixture and work it through the animal's fur. Leave the solution on three to four minutes and finish with a tap water rinse.

Mix only enough of the solution to use on the dog and discard the rest as it should not be kept and stored.



The adult larder beetle is about 1/3 inch long. It is dark colored with a broad, pale tan, black-spotted band across the front portion of its wing covers.



Larder beetle larvae

Larder Beetles

Named after the place they are most often found, the larder beetle (*Dermestes lardarius*) can actually be found throughout a house and not just in the larder (an old term for kitchen). The adult larder beetle is a small (1/3 inch long), dark-colored beetle with a broad, pale-tan, black-spotted band across the front portion of the wing covers. This beetle is a member of the carpet beetle family; however, it can feed on a wide variety of materials-not just carpets.

Larder beetle larvae are reddish brown and densely covered with short and long hairs, and have two curved spines on the top of the tail end. Larvae have a strong tendency to remain in dark places. Just before the larvae pupate they begin to migrate, and are often encountered by

homeowners at this time. These older larvae will bore into materials such as wood, cork, or insulation looking for a place to pupate. The adults mate soon after emerging from pupal cases and eggs are laid near a food source.

Both adults and larvae will feed on high protein food sources including cured and spoiled meats, dried fish, high protein pet food, dead insects such as cluster flies and box elder bugs, furs, feathers, leather, cheeses, dead rodents and birds in chimneys or wall partitions, and even rat or mouse control baits.

Larder beetles only attack woolens that have been soiled with blood, fish oils, or other high protein stains. Close relatives of the larder beetle are actually used in cleaning flesh from skeletons used in taxidermy and museums. ■

Larder Beetle Control

Identifying and eliminating the food source is the first step in controlling these pests, according to the University of Wisconsin Web site. Without a food source, larder beetles will not survive. Larder beetles found in and around the kitchen may be infesting stored food. Larvae or adults found in an upstairs room or attic may be infesting a carcass of a dead animal. An infested bag of dog food is easily cleaned up. However, finding the source of one or two beetles may be very difficult. That's where our advice and expertise comes in handy. Knowing why you have the problem will lead to a solution. Consider all the possibilities for food when looking for an in-house infestation site. However, larvae do migrate as they grow and the place they are sighted may be far away from the actual food source! Keep in mind that larvae can easily chew through paper, light plastic, cork, tin, and even foam insulation.

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