Dermestids—Carpet Beetles and Odd Beetles

Dermestids are very small beetles. They look like gnats when they are in flight.

Most dermestids and their larvae are 1/16”-1/8”.

The larvae are the newly hatched form of this pest and can appear worm-like. They eat protein material, including hair, skin, feathers and fur.

You may see cast skins. These can look like lint from a distance.

When you see one, try to catch it and put it in a plastic bag. If you have to kill it, try not to completely smash it. The pest team will need an in-tact specimen for identification.

Clothes Moths

Clothes moths are not miller moths. They are very small gold moths. They measure about 1/4” long.

Moth larvae are small, white and worm-like with a red-orange head. The larvae usually eat wool, skin, fur and other protein materials.

The moths and larvae also leave behind webbing and/or small cases made of the fabric they were eating. They may also leave behind small pellets in the color of what they were eating.

These moths do not like light. They prefer warm, humid dark spaces.

If you see a moth, kill it, but try not to smash it. The pest team will need an in-tact specimen for identification. If you see larvae, do not kill it. Leave it where it is and contact the pest team.
Silverfish/Firebrats

Silverfish and firebrats are very similar in appearance and behavior. They are silver or gray in appearance and long with long antennae and legs. They move very quickly.

Both silverfish and firebrats depend on water for survival. They can be found around sinks and leaky pipes.

Silverfish and firebrats eat paper and starch adhesives.

Book Lice

Book lice, or Psocids, are extremely tiny and usually cannot be identified without use of a microscope. They will often appear to be a moving speck of dust.

Psocids (SO-sids) are soft bodied insects. They may have four wings or be wingless.

Booklice feed most commonly on molds and fungi and other starchy material, including the glue in book bindings.

They can be found in damp, warm, undisturbed places.

Make sure any leaks or drippy faucets are repaired and cleaned up immediately to avoid attracting these pests.

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If you see silverfish or firebrats, please notify the pest team.
Other Pests of Concern

Report the following to the pest management team:

- Any beetles
- Any rodent or rodent activity
- Any ants that appear to be an infestation (i.e. more than 5 together)
- Anything that looks like a winged ant
- Anything that looks like a cockroach
- Any spiders that resemble black widows or brown recluse

Please try to capture live specimens of these pests if possible. Do not smash beetles, winged ants, roaches, etc. Please do not approach rodents or questionable spiders.