Distinguishing Major Groups of Wood-Infesting Insects

True Powderpost **Beetles**

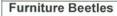


1/8 to 5/16 in (3-8 mm) long, somewhat flattened; light brown to black. Antenna with twosegmented club. Attacks only newly seasoned (dried) sapwood of hardwoods.

Exit holes circular, 1/32 - 1/16 in (0.8-1.6 mm)

Frass -fine smooth flour like. loose in tunnels

Can Reinfest wood



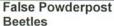


1/16 -3/8 in (1.6 -3 mm) long, head hidden beneath hood like thorax: brown to variable color. Antenna with three enlarged segments. Can attack seasoned hardwoods and softwoods

Exit holes circular, 1/16 - 1/8 in (1.6-3 mm)

Frass - fine sand like, loose in tunnels

Can Reinfest wood





1/4 in (8mm) long, stubby looking, with bumps on front edge of thorax, head hidden. Usually black to dark brown. Antenna with three enlarged segments. Attacks sapwood of hardwoods usually. Exit holes circular, 3/32 -9/32 (2.5-7mm)

tightly packed in tunnels.

Ambrosia Beetles



1/50 - 1/8 in (0.5-3 mm) long. resemble false powderpost beetles except with round club antennae. Prefer hardwoods. Exit holes circular, 1/50 1/8 in (0.5-3mm) Leaves a distinctive purple to blue black stain around deep gallery and exit hole. Frass - No frass in holes Cannot Reinfest wood < 30%

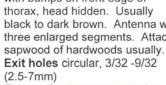
Bark Beetles Engraver beetles



1/8 in (3mm) long; resemble ambrosia and false powderpost beetles; have round club antenna. Tunnels have unique pattern engraved under bark. Only surface damage Exit holes - 1/8 in circular, through the bark.

Frass - tightly packed in tunnels Cannot Reinfest wood





Frass - fine to coarse powder Can Reinfest wood, rarely

Longhorned Wood Borers



1/3 - 2 in (8-50mm) long or more Long antenna, multi colored. Kidney shaped eyes. Exit holes - slightly oval to cylindrical, depending on species Frass - coarse sawdust like

tightly packed in tunnels. Cannot Reinfest wood except Old House Borer, who only attacks softwoods, usually well seasoned.

Carpenter Bees



1 in (25mm) long, shiny blue to purple black abdomen on bee. Fly and hover actively, chase other male bees aggressively. Attack large bare branches and flat vertical wooden boards. Prefer to attack softwoods like yellow and white pines, redwoods and fir. Exit holes circular, ½ in (13 mm) Frass - sawdust like, empty tunnels except for wood partitions Can Reinfest wood

Metallic Wood **Borers**







Exit holes - elongated ovals. Tunnels are very flat and winding; walls scarred with lines Frass - tightly packed sawdust like or pellets.

Cannot Reinfest wood.

May have long delay (years) in emerging from cut and seasoned wood.

Carpenter Ants

½" – 1" long large black ants. Galleries are irregular in shape; smooth texture like having been sanded; follow the grain of the wood. Often with sawdust and sometimes with other dead insects inside galleries.

Subterranean Termites

1/4" long whitish bodied insect; winged termites are 1/4" -1/2" long, black with clear or smoky wings. Galleries are thin, follow the grain of wood and most often have dirt or mud inside.

Information compiled by Alain VanRyckeghem, Insects Limited, Inc. 2012