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How To Prevent Carpet Moths

Discovering carpet moth damage can be frustrating, especially if you've invested in a high-quality wool carpet. These tiny pests are drawn to natural fibres, laying eggs in the carpet where larvae hatch and feed, causing noticeable wear and tear. If left untreated, an infestation can lead to irreparable damage.

At Riviera Home, we want to help you protect your carpets. In this guide, we'll explain:

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What Are Carpet Moths?

Carpet moths are small insects that can cause significant damage to wool carpets. The real culprits are their larvae, which feed on natural fibres, leaving behind bald patches and weakened areas. Because they reproduce quickly, it's crucial to act fast at the first sign of an infestation.

What Causes Carpet Moths Infestations?

There can be many reasons carpet moths are attracted to your home. First, try to establish where the moths are coming from so you can take steps to prevent them from entering and damaging your carpets.

Looking for a Breeding Ground: The most common reason for an infestation is that carpet moths are seeking a place to lay their eggs. Wool carpets provide an ideal environment for larvae since they offer a natural fibre food source.

Lack of Regular Cleaning: If carpets aren't vacuumed or cleaned frequently, they can become breeding grounds for moths and other insects making regular cleaning essential.

External Contamination: If you live in an area with a high moth population, moths may enter your home by clinging to clothing, textiles, or second-hand rugs and furniture.

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Tips For Preventing Carpet Moth Damage

- Regularly Hoover carpets right up to the edges using a small nozzle. You may even find using a damp cloth first helps to remove debris away from the edges around radiators, stairs, and skirting boards.
- Move furniture out from its usual spots so that you can Hoover behind and right in the crevices caused by the weight of the furniture.
- Empty your Hoover bag and/or clean out cylinders and filters regularly.
- Deep Clean Your Carpets: Schedule professional carpet cleaning at least once a year to eliminate any hidden infestations.
- Check the underside of rugs for signs of carpet moths, beetles, eggs, and larvae.
- Check wardrobes, clothes, and home furnishings for signs of infestation.
- Wash stored clothes and home furnishings regularly. Rugs and throws can also be given a good shake or beating outside.
- Keep your home well-lit and ventilated as much as possible.
- Regularly dust your home, especially with a damp cloth as it tends to stop dust from spreading.

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How to Treat Carpet Moths

If you suspect an infestation, take action immediately:

- **Vacuum Thoroughly:** Use a high-powered vacuum to remove larvae and eggs, emptying the vacuum bag after each use.
- **Use Moth Traps:** Pheromone traps can help reduce the moth population by attracting and capturing adult moths.
- **Call a Professional:** Contact a professional pest control provider for a comprehensive solution.

Moth Protection of Riviera Home Carpets

The yarn used in Riviera Home's wool carpets is treated with permethrin to help protect against carpet moth larvae. During the treatment process, the wool's cuticle structure opens, allowing the permethrin solution to penetrate deep into the fibre core. Once the process is complete, the cuticle structure closes, securely locking in the treatment. Importantly, there is no permethrin on the wool's surface—larvae are only affected when they digest the treated fibres. While this treatment is highly effective, it does not guarantee complete prevention, as moths can still land on carpets and lay eggs. However, with good housekeeping and the preventative measures outlined above, infestations can be prevented.

Professional Cleaning Services

WoolSafe is an internationally recognised leader in the cleaning industry, renowned for its high standards of excellence and safety in carpet care chemicals. To find a WoolSafe-approved Professional Cleaner, scan the code below or visit www.woolsafe.org/find-a-carpet-cleaner.

