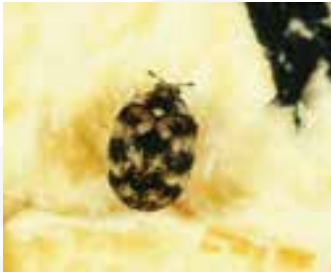


## WHAT IS THE AUSTRALIAN CARPET BEETLE?

The Australian carpet beetle is a native beetle that feeds on pollens, and is found throughout Australia in woodlands, forests, gardens and urban areas. Similar species of moth and beetle are found worldwide.



The larvae of the beetle are small, fluffy grubs, 4 - 5mm long, brown, with banded stripes. The grubs live for 9 months. They feed on animal proteins found in hair, feathers, animal skins and other dried animal products. This includes wool found in carpet.

They are particularly fond of bird nests as a place to live in their natural environment, and wool carpet in urban environments. The larvae of the carpet beetle will eat wool carpet and wool rugs, can eat lots of it, and will permanently damage the carpet.

Synthetic carpet is not attacked or damaged by carpet beetle grubs.

The beetles live outside, but will come inside to lay their eggs on juicy looking carpet any time of the year. They prefer dark, damp areas under furniture and around the edges of the room.

Carpet beetle grubs are more active when it is warm and damp and dark. For this reason, they can eat more carpet in Queensland before being vacuumed up, making it appear like Queensland has a greater problem.

## CARPET TREATMENT AND PROTECTION

To protect against insect attack, woolen carpet yarn is treated with an insect resistant chemical to Woolmark standard CP-4:2013. This is safe to humans. Pyrethrum and Bifenthrin are used.

Because of the trouble the carpet beetle can cause, all carpet sold by Australian manufacturers contain these chemicals. Because similar species exist in most of the world, all reputable importers also have carpet treated with these chemicals.

This can only deter the insects from attacking the carpet. It is not in a high enough concentration to kill them, and, due to overuse of pesticides in the urban environment, the insects have become resistant to these chemicals.

**There is no such thing as a mothproof or beetle-proof wool carpet. Warrantees are not given against insect attack.**

Wool carpet must be kept clean, and regularly vacuumed. Vacuum right to the edge of the room, and move furniture to vacuum underneath often.

Do not allow carpet to stay damp around windows and doors, or leaky walls and roofs. Do not leave items like building materials on the carpet.

Do not bring bird nests inside, and remove them from around the house. Remove spider web infestations from around the house and under the house.

Keep fly screen doors closed to prevent beetles from flying inside.

If you would like to, spray domestic residual insecticide (surface spray) around the edges of the floor every year, under furniture and at doorways.

Place naphthalene balls in closets, and use scent traps for insects.

Check incoming flowers for adult beetles

If you find any evidence of insect attack or infestation, call a pest control agency immediately. Spray with insecticide immediately.

## A NOTE TO CHEMICAL SENSITIVE CUSTOMERS.

Some people are worried about bringing chemicals into their house, and so ask for a 'chemical free' carpet option. EC Carpets do not make a wool carpet without an insect resist treatment. It would result in having to use more dangerous chemicals after the carpet installation.

Synthetic carpets can contain residual hydrocarbons from the manufacture of the polymer from crude oils, so these are not chemical free either. We are not aware of a manufacturer who would offer a completely chemical free carpet.