



COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Your Guide to

STORED PRODUCT PESTS



WHY STORED PRODUCT PESTS ARE A BIG DEAL

Stored product pests are a major issue for product loss in warehousing and manufacturing industries due to their ability to contaminate and destroy vast quantities of stored goods. Battling these pests can leave facility managers feeling overwhelmed and frustrated as they face the constant threat of damaged goods, disrupted operations and destructive business reputations.

A stored product pest problem can lead to sizable financial and logistical problems for your business and facility, including:

- ◆ Product contamination and loss
 - ◇ [An estimated \\$2.5 billion annually](#)
- ◆ Quick population growth leading to infestations
- ◆ Negative impact throughout the supply chain

What Is a Stored Product Pest?

Stored product pests refer to a variety of pests — including beetles, weevils, moths and mites — that infest materials that are not used or moved immediately. They can be found in any commercial facility with bulk dry, processed goods and packaged goods.

Put a Lid on Stored Product Pest Problems

Addressing stored product pest issues is crucial. In this guide, Orkin experts share pest control best practices that can help prevent stored product pests in your facility, including:

- ◆ Products commonly affected by stored product pests
- ◆ Common types of stored product pests and their behaviors
- ◆ Best practices to help keep your facility safe
- ◆ Pest control services for stored product pests

Get the confidence you need to fight back against these destructive insects.

WHAT DO STORED PRODUCT PESTS FEED ON?

Stored product pests pose a significant threat to goods and commodities across commercial facilities from warehouses and food processing plants to retail stores and restaurants. Understanding their presence and impact is crucial for pest control and safeguarding the integrity of goods.

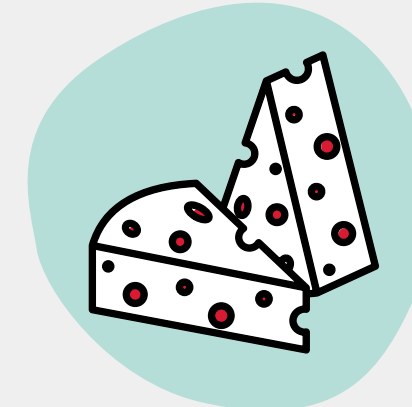
Signs of a Pest Infestation in Your Product

- ◆ Packaging has been chewed through
- ◆ Change in taste or smell
- ◆ Live insects
- ◆ Webbing
- ◆ Small holes in grain product
- ◆ Fungus or mildew

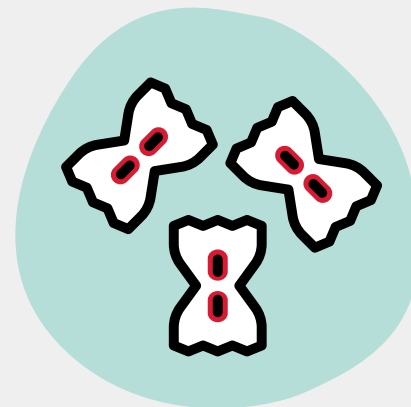
Products Commonly Affected by Stored Product Pests



**Dry Foods
and Ingredients**



**Perishable Foods
and Ingredients**



**Processed
Foods**



**Tobacco
Products**



Fabrics



Paper Goods



Pet Foods



**Over-the-Counter
Medications and
Prescription Drugs**



TYPES OF STORED PRODUCT PESTS

Stored product pests are primarily classified by how and what they eat — and some are more dangerous than others. Here are the four categories of stored product pests, ranked by total damage and commonality:

- ◆ **External Feeders:** Feed on the exterior of grains and kernels and work their way inside
- ◆ **Internal Feeders:** Larvae develops inside the kernels
- ◆ **Scavengers:** Eat almost anything, even if other pests have gotten to it first
- ◆ **Secondary Feeders:** Consume moldy and damp food product

Though there are many types of stored product pests, there are some usual suspects in commercial facilities. **Click on the pests on pages 5-6 to learn more about them in our [Pest Library](#).**

INTERNAL FEEDERS



Granary Weevil



Rice Weevil



Cowpea Weevil

EXTERNAL FEEDERS



Drugstore Beetles

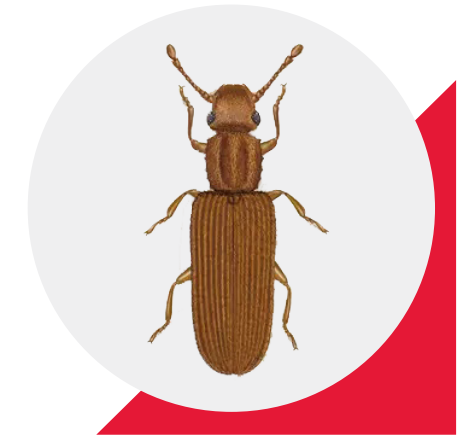


Cigarette Beetles



Warehouse Beetle

SCAVENGERS



Grain Beetles



Flour Beetles



Redlegged Ham Beetle

SECONDARY FEEDERS



Shiny Spider Beetles



Whitemarked Spider Beetles



Foreign Grain Beetles



Fungus Feeding Beetles



Indian Meal Moths



Psocids

If you think you have a problem, it's best to contact a trusted pest control partner. Expert technicians can detect hard-to-spot differences between pests that look alike and create tailored solutions for the specific problem.

BEST PRACTICES FOR STORED PRODUCT PEST PREVENTION

Like with any pest infestation, the most effective treatment for stored product pest problems is to prevent them altogether. Implementing preventive pest control measures in your warehouse or facility will help reduce the risk of infestations and ensure the preservation of your product.



Examine all shipments. Carefully monitor all incoming or outgoing shipments and set aside a quality assurance sample so any potential problems are confirmed and isolated. Use a closed, labeled plastic container for samples so you can clearly see if pests are present.



Keep FSMA compliant. If your facility must adhere to the [Food Safety Modernization Act \(FSMA\)](#), then many stored product pest precautions may already be in place. Ensure that you have an excellent food safety plan and reinforce procedures that help minimize risk.



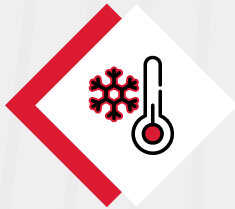
Document the signs of an infestation. You might have a stored product pest infestation if you notice holes in packages, pests crawling or flying around, or larvae and webbing in or around product. Take detailed notes of where, when and what you see for your pest control professional to reference.



Clean frequently and consistently. Promptly clean up any product spills or debris and set up a regular sanitation schedule for deep cleaning. Check cracks, crevices and holes where messes can accumulate.



Practice FIFO. Make sure you are using the first-in, first-out (FIFO) approach, since deteriorating products attract stored product pests.



Keep your cool. Set your storage room temperatures to 60 degrees Fahrenheit or lower, when possible, because stored product pests cannot survive lower temperatures.



Maintain proper storage. Store product in sealed containers that are elevated from the floor and kept away from walls.

PEST CONTROL SERVICES TO CONSIDER

Keep these professional pest control services in mind as effective options to help you prevent stored product pests and manage an infestation if it occurs.

- ◆ **Customized Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan:** Work with a partner who can create a thorough and comprehensive plan that addresses your unique needs, helping your facility stay safe, protected and audit-ready year-round.
- ◆ **Exclusion:** Shut out pests by repairing and protecting entry points in your facility. A trusted pest control provider can conduct a thorough examination of your facility to see if there are holes in your defenses, from physical entry points where pests gain access to vulnerable points in the supply chain.
- ◆ **Staff Training:** Even the best facility manager cannot inspect every single shipment alone. Your staff can help report potential pest problems — if they know where and how to look. Partner with a provider who can equip your team with the knowledge they need to help reduce stored product pest risks.
- ◆ **Traps:** There are several types of traps that can aid you in monitoring the presence of stored product pests. These monitoring devices are available in both species-specific pheromones and multi-species combinations.



DON'T LET PESTS SNACK ON YOUR STOCK.

Stored product pests pose a significant threat to commercial facilities. Beyond the physical loss of inventory, these pests tarnish reputations and compromise safety standards.

Vigilance and proactive measures are crucial in safeguarding facilities like yours against these destructive pests. If you want to help keep your product safe and sound, now is the perfect time to create a plan to help prevent these insects in your facility.

With over a century of experience helping businesses just like yours, Orkin is equipped with the knowledge and expertise to help tailor a pest control plan to your facility's unique needs. To learn more about how to help prevent stored product pests in your facility, visit [orkincommercial.com](https://www.orkincommercial.com) or [schedule a free inspection](#) with a well-trained Orkin Pro™.

