

Pesticides and You

News from the National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides (NCAMP)

One in a Series of NCAMP "How-To's"

Protecting Natural Fibers From Moths

Items susceptible to clothes moth damage include wool, fur, hair, feathers, and to a lesser extent cotton, rayon, paper and straw.

Items that are not stored:

- Periodically shake, brush, and air outdoors in the sun, paying special attention to hidden areas (reverse of cuffs, pockets, collars, etc.).

Items to be stored:

- Clean susceptible materials before storing them, or put items in the freezer for several days before placing

them in storage, or after removing them from storage.

- Store in heat-sealed, or otherwise completely sealed, sturdy plastic bags or other sealed containers, such as cardboard boxes with all openings covered with adhesive tape.

Habitat management:

- Vacuum organic debris in cracks in floors, drawers, closets, etc., where clothes moths may be breeding.
- Eliminate old bird nests on window sills and eaves of the building that may

be sources of moth infestations.

- Trap rather than poison rodents so inaccessible carcasses do not become a food source for clothes moths, other insect pests, or cause unpleasant odors.

Note:

- Use of any common moth "repellent" in loosely closed containers or chests, etc., is probably ineffective as most are fumigants rather than true repellents.

Adapted from: Clothes moths: how to protect your woolens, by William and Helga Olkowski. Common Sense Pest Control 11(2):7-12, published by the Bio-Integral Resource Center, P.O. Box 7414, Berkeley, CA 94707, (415) 524-2567.