

Powderpost Beetle

QUICK STATS:

Color: Reddish brown to black

Shape: Narrow oval

Size: 1/8 to 1/4 inch long



OVERVIEW

Powderpost beetles lay their eggs in cracks of wood and the larvae tunnel into the surface, filling it with a very fine powder-like dust. Powderpost beetles have long, narrow, flat bodies that allow them to easily attack wood surfaces. These beetles are reddish-brown in color.

HABITS

Powderpost beetles often attack hardwoods, and can be found in hardwood floors, timbers and crates, antiques and other objects made of hardwood materials.

THREATS

Some researchers believe that powderpost beetles are second only to termites in their destructiveness to wood and wood products.

PREVENTION

- Wood boring insects like powderpost beetles can be prevented through vigilant inspection of wood sources in the home
- Most ppb are introduced into homes in lumber or finished wood products (e.g., furniture, paneling or flooring). Lumber which has been improperly stored or dried should not be used, particularly if beetle exit holes are present. Many of the most serious infestations of ppb result from people using old lumber from a barn or woodpile behind their house to panel a room or build an addition.
- Active infestations will usually have powder the color of fresh-cut wood sifting from the exit holes. In contrast to old, abandoned holes, new holes will not have taken on the weathered appearance of the surrounding wood. Powder streaming from recently opened holes may accumulate in small piles beneath the exit holes. If these piles of powder are covered over with a film of dust or debris, the damage is old. Careful observation may be required to distinguish new powder from frass which has been dislodged from old larval galleries by vibrations.

DID YOU KNOW? Powderpost Beetle

Adult powderpost beetles are very active at night, enjoy flying and are attracted to the light.