

Insects That Overwinter in Your Home

Most insects spend the winter as an egg or pupae to help protect themselves from the cold. Some, though may be an adult for the cold months and need a warm place to hide. In many cases, this could be your home.

Multicolored Asian lady beetle



Can be a variety of colors (e.g. yellow, orange, red) and have many spots or none at all; always look for the solid or broken "M" on thorax

Western conifer seed bug



3/4-inch long, dark brown and with yellow squares along the edge of the abdomen; back legs are partially flattened and look like boat paddles

Boxelder bug



About a 1/2-inch long, black, and with red lines on their sides and diagonally across their back

Brown marmorated stink bug



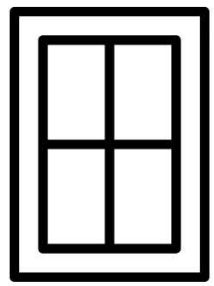
1/2-inch long and brown with yellow/white dots all over body, and a white band near antennae tips

These insects are neither structural pests nor do they pose a serious health issue. Some people may be allergic to their defensive secretions, though, and they can stain light-colored surfaces in the house.

Dealing with winter invaders:



Seal entry points into your home - Check for cracks around windows, doors, pipes, and chimneys, and seal openings with silicone or silicone-latex caulk



Check screens on doors and windows for holes and repair trouble spots or replace the entire screen



Perimeter insecticides can help if applied at the correct time of year (contact a pest control professional for best results)



When insects are found inside, simply vacuum them up and dispose of them outside

★ Do not use insecticide "bombs" as they don't help prevent these pests ★