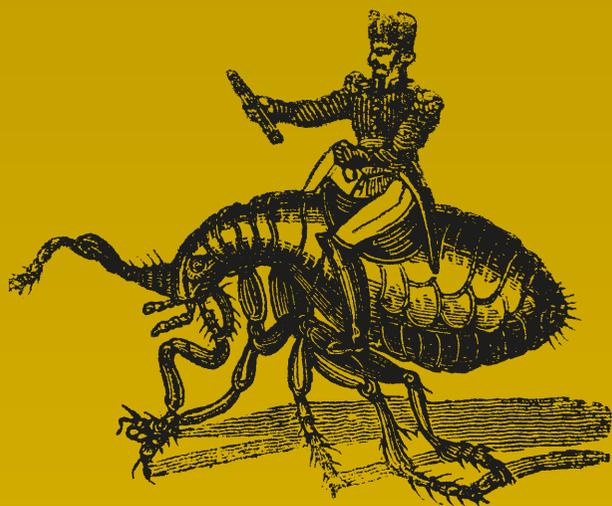


WELCOME

This leaflet explains how to identify pests and protect your documents from them at home.



FIND OUT MORE

The full series

- #1 Caring for loose documents at home
- #2 Caring for books at home
- #3 Displaying prints and drawings at home
- #4 Caring for photographs at home
- #5 Caring for LPs and CDs at home
- #6 Caring for newspapers and offcuts at home
- #7 Pest monitoring at home

Visit LMA online

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/history-and-heritage/london-metropolitan-archives

Suggested reading and websites

Institute of Conservation

www.icon.org.uk

Introduction to Museum Pest, Museum of London

www.museumoflondon.org.uk/Resources/e-learning/introduction-to-museum-pests/

A-Z pests identification

bpca.org.uk/pest-advice/a-z-of-pests

D. Pinniger, P. Winsor

Integrated pest management, A guide for museums, libraries and archives

https://formacaompr.files.wordpress.com/2010/02/ipm_guide-pestes.pdf

David Pinniger, J.D. Harmon

Pest management, prevention and control

www.natsca.org/sites/default/files/publications/books/Pests.pdf

CARING FOR YOUR
COLLECTION AT HOME

**PEST
MONITORING**

7/7

Pest damage

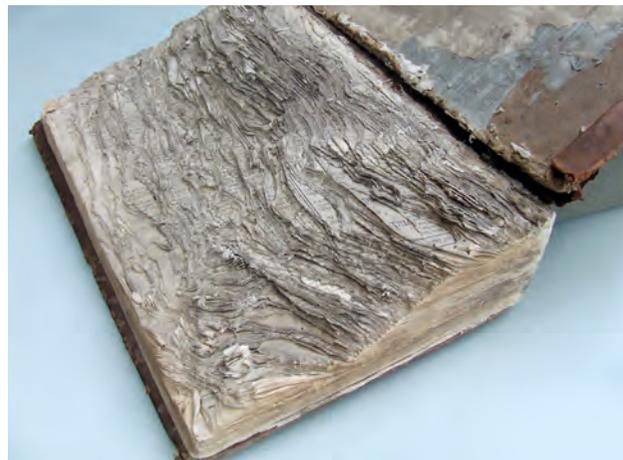
Books, paper and parchment are food to all sorts of small uninvited visitors to our homes.

The following will damage collection material because a similar material is found as food in their natural habitat: Slugs, snails, silverfish, rats, mice, moths, mould, book lice, and some species of beetle.



Prevention

- The simplest way of avoiding damage is to prevent your collections becoming damp and by storing them in boxes off the ground.
- Avoid contact with external walls as these are often slightly damp and this will be absorbed by paper boxes and collections.
- Bedrooms and living rooms are usually good places to keep precious items, as occupation and cleaning deters pests. If more space is required any clean dry room, preferably heated during the winter, is suitable.
- Most sheds, outhouses, bathrooms, utility rooms, lofts and attics should be avoided as they can be damp - this can encourage mould growth which means more food for pests to snack on.
- Lofts and attics are usually very hot in summer and very cold in winter.
- Temperature fluctuations speed up the deterioration of paper collections and pest activity can increase at higher temperatures, so it is important to keep the temperature stable.



Action

- Vacuum cleaning and building maintenance is always our first approach if we find an infestation in the archive. Cleaning must be repeated at regular intervals so that tiny insect eggs that hatch after the first cleaning are removed.
- Vacuuming on collection items is done with a separate handheld brush and vacuum cleaner on very low. This must be carried out with the greatest care to avoid causing damage.
- Old or damp corrugated cardboard boxes are discarded as the tubes inside the card are ideal for small insects to breed.
- Good building maintenance will prevent rodents entering gaps from under doors that are less than about 4mm.
- Check external walls as they can be slightly damp due to poor weatherproofing. Plumbing can leak slowly and imperceptibly.
- Use sticky and/or pheromone traps to identify the most common pests that live in your house (below).
- Rodent traps and insecticides can be used by qualified professionals, but often the activities listed above are enough. The pest in question must first be correctly identified so that an effective action is selected.

