

Invasion of Flying Beasties

I have been asked to write a piece on moths! Where to begin? There are many species of moth; they even live in active beehives with the larvae feeding on the wax. However I think it would be better to stick to clothes moths as I suspect they are the ones which cause the most concern in the house.

They tend to be found in areas which are undisturbed; for instance under large pieces of furniture, behind the telly, and especially at the bottom of wardrobes, which have shoes and clothes and which are rarely moved. They are quite happy merrily munching away and raising a family until they become noticed - then it is time to check the woollens and carpets.

Many Moths Munching

I seem to do quite a few moth jobs, often in large Oxford houses, inhabited by dons and academics, with many rooms filled with moth food. One job in particular I remember was an elderly lady, retired from a very senior position in one of the colleges. She lived in a four-storey house but really only used the kitchen and bedroom. Her son came to visit after a prolonged period abroad and saw the extreme state of the moth population. I should add that the lady wore very strong glasses and still needed a magnifying glass to read, which was why she was oblivious to the moths fluttering up at every step! I pointed out an oriental silk rug, which was eaten to the backing; in a very Edith Evans voice she said "Oh, I thought it had faded terribly."



It was quite an involved job as the rooms were rather full. I think the original source was a suitcase under the stairs, which had been untouched since the death of her mother; when opened it contained leather pieces which had once been gloves and furs and a newspaper dated 1963.

Stung Twice in One Day

On another note, I have had quite a few wasp jobs lately which have been botched by the wasp brigade who turn up at this time of year, as they see it, for easy money. I did one not too far from here for an elderly couple who had called out one of these firms. Two men turned up and proceeded to attack the gap under the guttering on the garage, where the wasps were, with a blow lamp! The plastic gutter caught fire, which was put out and then they filled the gap with expanding foam. They escorted the householder to a cash machine and relieved him of £120. About an hour later the wasps found another way out and were extremely angry and stung the householders- really a case of being stung twice in one day!

Please use a reputable, qualified professional pest control company to avoid this kind of unfortunate episode and ring around for quotes on price and availability - a decent company will always give advice and will return if a re-visit should be needed.

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