

Moths

Your wool rug may be the perfect meal and home for a moth. They do not discriminate against the quality of the wool, how valuable the rug is, or how sentimental the rug may be to you. It only takes a short period for moths to cause significant damage to your rug which results in costly repairs or a rug being tossed in the trash too early on in its life.

How to Prevent and Remove Moths

The best way to save your rugs from moths is preventive maintenance. The simplest approach is to regularly vacuum your entire rug especially under furniture. For areas you can't vacuum, clothes moth traps are an easy way to monitor for moth activity. These can be purchased online and placed under beds, sofas and other hard to reach places. Place a date on your trap so you know when you placed the trap as they need to be exchanged every few months. Periodically, every six months to a year, you will want to do a physical inspection for moth activity. Usually this is happening under large furniture, but you will also want to look under the edges of your rugs that see little foot traffic as this is a dark undisturbed area where they can also be hiding.

If you find moths during your inspection or in your moth traps, the next step is contacting your rug specialist to arrange to have your rugs cleaned. Though it is easy to kill moths and the larvae, the eggs are very difficult to kill. There are three proven ways to kill moth eggs; high heat, freezing, and physical removal. Wash is the most practical and simplest way to achieve physical removal. While the rug is out for cleaning it is important to address any moths or eggs that could be remaining in the home. Cleaning your floors where the rug was placed is step one. Be sure to inspect under furniture and behind large furniture for hiding moths. Disturbing as many surfaces as you can is important. Replacing your rug pad is also recommended to ensure you remove any moth eggs.

Place moth traps in every room of your house. Once you are not getting moths caught in your traps it is likely safe to place your rug back in that room. If one trap is still getting moths, move your traps toward that trap to determine where you could possibly still be housing moths. Even once your traps are staying moth free, keep fresh traps to continue to monitor any possible moth activity.

Identifying Infestations

- Moths are not lively insects like flies and fleas. It is highly unlikely you will find them flying around or crawling on your rug in plain sight since moths like to live undisturbed and in dark undisturbed places. Rugs left in storage and the ones sitting underneath furniture are the most susceptible. This explains why months, or even years, can pass by with people not knowing that they have a moth infestation.

Here are a few signs to look for:

- Delicate white webbing similar to a spiders
- Small white cocoons about the size of a grain of rice
- Small wiggling larva (white with a black head)
- Obvious damage to your rug
- Champagne colored moths about the size of the tip of a sharpened pencil

ARCS
ASSOCIATION OF RUG CARE SPECIALISTS



Webbing Moths



Moth Larvae