

Fabric Pests - Typical First Strikes by Housekeeping and Maintenance

1. **Practice proper sanitation. Routinely dust, vacuum all lint, human and animal hair and other organic debris and clean** the entire area with Safe Solutions Enzyme Cleaner with Peppermint (1 oz. per 1 gal. water) natural soaps or steam clean. **Promptly remove vacuum bags, animal nests, animal carcasses, garbage and/or dead insects.**
2. Mix ½ pound rosemary, ½ pound mint, ¼ pound ginseng, and 2 tablespoons cloves and put in cheese cloth bags to be used as a sachets. **Dust lightly with baking soda or talcum powder or Comet® or food-grade DE.**
3. **Try sachets** of any of the following: French marigold, lemon verbena, pennyroyal, dried lemon peels, dried lavender, cedar chips, tobacco, coriander, southernwood, bay leaves, whole cloves, cedar chips, dried rosemary and mint or whole peppercorns. Patchoulli, clove, cedar, citronella and/or lavender oils also can be added. Wash with Safe Solutions Enzyme Cleaner with Peppermint monthly.
4. **Keep clothes, textiles and fabrics clean and stored in sealed, plastic storage containers or airtight chests;** never put clothing or fabric or textiles away dirty; wash with borax and diluted Safe Solutions, Inc. Enzyme Cleaner. Shake them and place them in direct sunlight. Store them in areas below 45° F.
5. **Routinely clean carpets and rugs** with 1 oz. - 2 oz. Safe Solutions, Inc. Enzyme Cleaner and/or 1 c. borax per 1 gal. water in a rinse-and-vac. Routinely remove lint, human and pet hair, fur and feathers and other organic debris. Spot treat as needed with Not Nice to Bugs®.
6. **“Fumigate”** with carbon dioxide in a bag or sealed garbage container.
7. **All stages of fabric pests can be controlled if the infested article is sealed in an intact plastic bag** and put in a deep freezer for at least 3 days at 0° F. or put the items that can not be harmed by heat in 130° F. - 140° F. heat for 1 - 4 hours to kill the insects.
8. **Clothing storage:** Store seasonal or other unused and clean clothing in black garbage bags with 2 sticks of wrapped peppermint gum to help keep the pests at bay. **If clean materials are stored in tightly sealed containers, they should be safe from infestation.**
9. The camphor plant also produces a powerful, antiseptic, volatile oil that that controls clothes moths and other pests, but it has been banned in some counties due to its high phenol content.
10. Traps can be made using cloth pads lightly treated with sardine oil as bait.
11. Caulk and repair all cracks and crevices.
12. Fabrics that are infected can be submerged in hot (at least 120° F.), soapy water for at least 2 - 4 hours to kill larvae and eggs.
13. **If you still have fabric pests, read the entire chapter.**

*Safe Solutions products may be purchased online at:
<http://www.safesolutionsinc.com>
or by telephone at:
1-888-443-8738.

