### Mold and Mildew

**Mold**
- Mold and mildew are spore growths and for nutrition they break down the cellulose found in cotton, linen, and rayon. They cause a stain which if left on a textile cannot be easily removed.

**Mildew**
- Mold and mildew appear as irregular shapes of gray, black, or green spots on fabrics. Growth can occur when textiles are framed and glass is placed directly against the bottom of boxes or on shelves, the powder left underneath the infested object will be clearly visible.

### Carpet Beetle and Larvae

**Carpet Beetle**
- The larvae of the carpet beetle can do extensive damage as it feeds without preference on wool, fur, and silk. The larvae also feed on dead insects.

**Larva**
- If you have an infestation of carpet beetles you will be able to find bodies of adult beetles and larval skin castings in light fixtures, on window sills and in the cracks behind. Carpet beetle larvae leave clean neat holes in textiles with a fine powder the same color as the object left behind. By placing white paper in the bottom of boxes or on shelves, the powder left underneath the infested object will be clearly visible.

### Silverfish

**Silverfish**
- Both adult and nymph silverfish cause damage. They hide in cool, dark places and feed on sizings that consist of starch, sugar and/or protein. Silverfish have rasping mouth parts and cannot successfully chew textile fibers but can cause damage to fine fabrics such as silk, cotton, linen, and rayon.

**Silverfish Larvae**
- Silverfish can leave irregular holes by eating the surface material of objects. Rarely do they cause a hole in the textile but rather a shaving off of the surface fibers. Generally, silverfish are more of a problem for books than for textiles.

### Pest and Its Life Cycle

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<td><strong>Clothes Moth and Larvae</strong></td>
<td>The larva does damage by feeding on the protein of wool, fur, and silk. The cocoon under which the larva feeds, includes bits of fiber from the object so that it is often effectively camouflaged.</td>
<td>A silvery webbing is always associated with a moth infestation. It is important to inspect a textile on all sides when looking for infestation. Moth larvae leave holes or thin areas in a textile. If infestation is advanced, a granular excrement can also be found on or around the textile. Moths prefer darkness and will shun light.</td>
<td>If infestation is localized it is possible to carefully vacuum the object, providing it is strong enough to withstand the suction. Vacuuming should be thorough on both sides of the object with special attention to seams and creases. Dry cleaning is advisable for contemporary garments as it will kill all stages of infestation. This treatment however is not always safe for historic textiles. Freezing is an effective and safe method of eradicating an infestation. See notes under “Freezing.”</td>
<td>It can not be stressed enough that good housekeeping is essential in preventing an infestation. Examine garments and textiles very carefully before storing. Screen all access to outdoors (airducts and windows) to prevent the entry of flying moths. Periodic inspection of collections is necessary for pest control.</td>
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