

# Larval Dermestid Monitor



The Dermestid monitoring tool is designed to detect the presence of larvae of dermestid beetles such as Varied Carpet Beetles (*Anthrenus verbasci*), Black Carpet Beetles (*Attagenus unicolor*), and Larder Beetle (*Dermestes lardarius*). Other species of dermestid beetles will be attracted to the animal protein blend. Since the attractants are of animal origins it has potential to spoil under hot conditions. For long term storage the traps should be refrigerated. All the traps are contained within polyethylene bags to help with preservation of odours. It should also prevent odours from escaping into the refrigerator.

This trap contains no poisons or chemicals dangerous to humans, however, animal proteins may carry bacteria and microorganisms hazardous to food quality and safety. Do not use these items in areas where it is likely to come in contact with food materials, food handling surfaces or utensils.

When it is time to be used, remove the trap (still attached to the card) from the bag. Keep the bag for later use. Date and number the card, so that it can be retrieved in a timely manner, and cross referenced to location of placement. It is expected that the traps will be placed in areas of susceptible infestations for about 30 days in room temperature (20-23°C) environments and longer (up to 60 days) in cooler environments. After that time, you can put the trap (with card attached) back into the polyethylene bag. Larvae are quite mobile and can crawl away from the trap, so the bag is used to contain them until it is time to count or detect the larvae in the traps.

The presence of larvae indicates possible infestations nearby and the higher the number of larvae, the more severe the problem. It is possible that larvae may move into the traps quickly and thus earlier inspection of the traps will give earlier warning of damaging larvae.

The traps are not designed to capture and hold the larvae with sticky glues. As such they can be placed closer to artefacts without risk of getting entangled. It is possible to place these into pockets or between layers of cloth or below taxidermy mounts etc.

