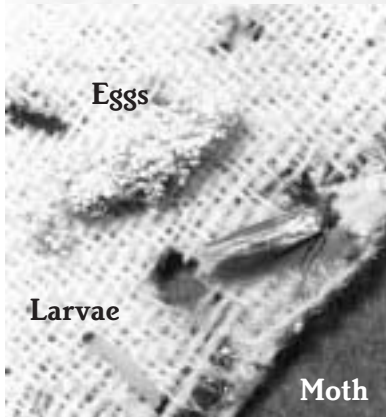


CLOTHES MOTHS



INSECT TIDBITS

Moths have a coiled tongue that they roll out to drink. Scales on the wings of moths provide the color patterns.

Silk comes from a moth's cocoon.

PREVENTION

- **Store** special clothing items in sealed containers. Moth balls (naphthalene) are not recommended. Try lavender, cedar, or pennyroyal.
- **Clean clothing** before storing because moths feed on food stains and sweat in clothes.
- **Brush off** furniture and rugs, and take them outdoors into the sunlight to air them. This will repel moths because they do not like light. Do this regularly to stored items.
- **Vacuum** regularly to pick up lint, hair, and food crumbs that moths feed on.

LESS-TOXIC CONTROLS

- **Washing** will kill the moths and remove food sources. Clothes moths cannot live on clothes only. They need hair, stains, or sweat to complete their life cycle.
- **Freeze** infested clothing for 4 days.
- **Heat-treat** infested clothing at 100°F for one day to kill all stages. This can be done by wrapping items in a plastic bag and placing the bag in the sun, or by placing items in an attic in warm areas during the summer, or by microwaving for 4 minutes on high (no zippers or buttons).
- **Vacuum** infested area thoroughly. Clothes moths cannot live on clothes only. They need hair, stains, or sweat to complete their life cycle.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact the Central Coast Environmental Health Project (CCEHP) at (805) 963-1622 ext. 111, or the Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner at (805) 681-5600. Information compiled by the Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo (ECOSLO) and the San Luis Obispo County Agricultural Commissioner's office on behalf of the CCEHP.