



Heritage Eaters



Consider storage environments

Avoid attic and basement storage. Climate-controlled spaces often mean less humidity and fewer bugs. Be sure to clean your space before storing and vacuum at least annually.

Protect with storage bins



Plastic storage bins are budget-friendly and pest resistant. Containers marked "PP" or "PE" on the base are generally safe for long-term storage. Before placing items in bins, inspect materials for pest debris, such as frass (excrement), eggs, or larvae casings. Brush and vacuum to dislodge any insect eggs before storing.

Avoid attracting pests



Stockpiling trash and recyclable materials can attract rodents and insects. Keep heirlooms in a separate location away from food storage and houseplants.

Identify the threat

Silverfish and booklice are notorious for ruining papers and books. Moth and beetle larvae love textiles and wood. Rodents and cockroaches will eat and shred most materials. Other "bugs," like pill bugs and spiders, although not "heritage eaters," may indicate excessive moisture or the presence of harmful pests. Inspect stored treasures at least annually to note any frass, new stains, and other warning signs before pests do serious damage.

Silverfish Grey



Brown-Dotted Clothes Moth



Webbing Clothes Moth



Varied Carpet Beetle



Hide Beetle



Carpet Beetle Larva



More Help:

For more pest identification and prevention tips, check out Insectslimited.com/insects and N.C. State University Extension's fact sheets on household pests, Content.ces.ncsu.edu/catalog/series/242/
Header images based on originals in the collections of the N.C. Museum of History and State Archives of N.C.