

## Common Questions

- Do they all bite?

Some bite, most do not. Sometimes the Asian Lady Beetles bite skin, but often this stinging sensation is actually caused by small spurs on the beetle's legs pricking skin as they move and evaluate whether or not the skin is a food source. The beetle does not carry disease nor does it have any toxin associated with its mouthparts. In most cases, the pain is short lived. If the bite concerns you, apply antiseptic to the site.

- If you crush one do they give off an unpleasant odor?

When multi-color Asian Lady Beetles are agitated they give off a yellowish fluid that has a faint, foul odor. This is a defensive reaction to ward off predators. It is called "reflex bleeding." The liquid is exuded from its legs and can stain.

- Can I be allergic to the multi-colored Asian Lady Beetle?

Yes, it is possible to have an allergic reaction to the multi-colored Asian Lady Beetle. Prolonged exposure to infestations has been reported to cause allergic reactions in some humans. Patients have described itchy nose and eyes, sneezing, upper respiratory symptoms and severe, persistent asthma.

- How can I control them?

Even though there are measures that can be taken to eliminate the beetles as they appear in the house, the long-term solution to eliminating your beetle "problem" in the house is early prevention.

- How can I get rid of them?

Vacuuming is an effective method for removing Lady Beetles from living areas. If heavy infestation occurs it is best to call your pest professional for assistance.



**Cute - but in numbers can be very annoying & messy!**

For more information call . . .

**Nuisance News!**



Fact Sheet

Your Company Name

Address

City , State Zip

Phone Number(s)



**Asian Lady Beetles**



The Asian Lady Beetle swarms and invades into cracks and crevices around windows, door frames, fascia boards, siding, soffits and enter into attics and wall voids leaving an acrid odor and staining surfaces with their yellowish secretions. Infestations can cause allergies in some individuals, ranging from eye irritation to asthma. They have been known to bite or "pinch" if in contact with the skin.

## Where did they come from?



**They're  
Back!**



U.S. Department of Agriculture attempted to establish the Asian Lady Beetle to control agricultural pests, especially for pecans and apples and released them in large numbers to Georgia, South Carolina, Louisiana, Mississippi, California, Washington, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Maryland during the 1960's and 1990's. Scientists believe that current infestations in the U.S. originated not from these intentional releases but from beetles accidentally transported into New Orleans on a freighter from Japan. At present, Asian Lady Beetles appear to have few natural enemies and survival is enhanced within buildings and other protected locations. As autumn approaches the adult beetles leave their summer feeding sites in yards, fields and forests for protected places to spend the winter. Unfortunately your homes and businesses are one such location. They are attracted to light or illuminated surfaces such as the sunny side of any structure.

## Preventing Infestation

Late spring or summer is the best time to take action against infestation of the Lady Beetle by sealing cracks and openings around all windows, doors, soffits, fascia boards, utility pipes and wires, etc. with caulk or other suitable sealant.

Seal large openings with cement, urethane foam or copper mesh. Repair damaged window screens and install screening behind attic vents, which are common entry points for the beetles. Replace or install tight fitting door sweeps or thresholds at the base of all exterior doors. Gaps of 1/8" or less will permit entry of lady beetles and other insects.



**Sealing cracks  
and openings  
is the most  
permanent  
way of preventing  
lady beetles  
from entering  
buildings.**

Gaps under sliding glass doors can be sealed with foam weather stripping. These practices will also help prevent entry of flies, wasps, crickets, spiders and other pests. Hiring a pest control company to perform the above measures will insure that they are done properly. Sealing all entries will also help homeowners on energy costs.

## Exterior Barrier Treatment

While sealing cracks and door openings is a more permanent way to limit beetle and other pests from entering, the approach is time-consuming and sometimes impractical. There can be countless cracks associated with eaves, siding, vents, etc. where insects can enter. On multi-story buildings, sealing becomes even more difficult.

Insecticides can be applied by a pest control company to building exteriors in the fall, which helps prevent pest entry. Fast-acting residual insecticides can be sprayed in a targeted band around windows, doors, eaves, soffits, attic vents and other likely points of entry.

To be effective, barrier treatments should be applied before the beetles enter buildings to overwinter. This will vary with seasonal conditions in your area.

Unfortunately, there is no "easy or quick fix" to annual lady beetle invasions. Vacuuming, pest proofing and properly timed exterior insecticide treatments by a pest control professional can provide relief but will not prevent entry of every single beetle.

**It's that time again.**

