

BOXELDER BUG INFORMATION

BOXELDER BUG



NUISANCE PEST - NOT HARMFUL

This bug is about 1/2 inch long and 1/3 as wide. It is black with three red lines on the body, a red line along each side, and a red line on each wing. The wings lie flat on the back when at rest.

The Boxelder Bug, *Leptocoris trivittata* (Rhopalidae), is often found in Windsor near its favorite food plant, Manitoba Maple. Masses of female bugs can sometimes be found in sheltered spots on the sides of buildings in October. These bugs are not a cause for concern for residents. They do not bite, feed or reproduce indoors.

Boxelder Bugs cause concern in the autumn when they gather in considerable numbers on the warm outside walls of homes and sometimes find their way into our properties looking for a suitable place for winter.

When they gain entry to buildings through cracks or other openings they remain in wall cavities and will occasionally emerge inside the home in the spring. They will not breed indoors, so there is no danger of starting an "infestation".

They cause no structural damage whatsoever but they can "spot" interior furnishings with their droppings. They can't bite, they don't eat anything on the inside of your house, including house plants, and they won't harm you or your pets.

ARE BOXELDER BUGS BUGGING YOU?

When the bugs decide it's time to leave their winter stop-over in your home some may be attracted to the warm atmosphere where you live. They want to get outside but inadvertently end up inside. A good way to eliminate them is to vacuum the bugs up with a long hose attachment. If you squash them they may stain the walls or fabric.

Remember they are harmless to humans and homes. You can easily use a broom to sweep the Boxelder outside of your home or away from your doors.

Spraying them with a mixture of soap and water will kill them. You can also wash them off exterior walls and tree trunks with a pressure hose or garden hose.



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Numerous resources were consulted in the preparation of this sheet -including Pest Control Canada, www.howtogetridofstuff, and the Ojibway Nature Centre, Windsor Ontario. - CHC Corporate Services 2011

How to avoid Boxelder bugs from entering your home.

- On sunny days when the bugs are grouping, usually on the South West side of a building, ensure your doors are not propped opened.
- You can use a broom to sweep the bugs off of the wall.

The Boxelder is a nuisance but they do not

- bite
- feed
- or reproduce indoors.

Feedback is welcomed on the information sheet.

- Did you find this information helpful?
- What other information sheets would you like to see from CHC?
- You may email us at info@wehc.com, or phone 519-254-1681 extension 3030.