

Beetles

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gather on the house, some find cracks or holes. They use these holes to get inside. Some lady beetles enter quiet places like the attic. They hibernate through the winter and become active again in spring.

Ladybug Lifecycle

There are about 5,000 species of ladybug beetles worldwide, so depending on the spe-

Contractors

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in bulk. So while labor costs might be lower on DIY projects, the cost of materials can offset those savings.

Resale value

Many homeowners renovate their homes with eyes on improving the resale value of those homes. But if homeowners want to showcase a newly remodeled kitchen when selling their homes, they should be prepared for prospective buyers to ask who worked on the project. Fearing potential problems down the road, some buyers might be put off by homes that were remodeled by DIYers and not professional contractors.

Renovating a home on your own can be a rewarding project for homeowners. But it's important that homeowners recognize the many benefits of working with professional contractors before making any final decisions with regard to who will tackle their next project.

cies and habitat, there is a large variation in this insect's lifecycle. For example, some lady beetles are predators, while others are plant feeders. However, all ladybug beetles undergo complete metamorphosis - four distinct life stages - the egg, larval, pupal and adult. The duration of the ladybug beetle's lifecycle from egg to adult varies, but ranges from about 1-2 months.

Signs of an Asian Lady Beetle Infestation

The most troubling sign of the multicolored Asian lady beetles is the mass appearance of large numbers of adults on and around buildings. This occurs during the fall with renewed activity on warm winter days and again in the spring. The larvae may be seen

on plants or outdoor surfaces but, due to their radically different appearance from the adults, may not be recognized.

Control Lady Bugs How to get rid of ladybugs when they're indoors

Ladybug beetles are a problem for homeowners when they move inside our homes and other structures seeking a protected site to overwinter and then when they decide to once again move outdoors as the weather warms in the spring. When this happens, the following proactive and control actions are useful:

- Proactive Measures - keeping them outside
- Seal gaps and cracks where ladybug beetles may enter the structure. Pay close attention to

areas such as siding, doors, windows, chimneys, ridge, soffit and gable vents and openings around pipes, conduit and utility wires

- Repair or replace damaged window or door screens
- Control Measures - getting rid of those inside
- The first thing to do when dealing with ladybug beetles is to contact your pest management professional and request an inspection. Your pest management professional will correctly identify the pest insect(s) and provide a plan for dealing with the problem.
- Some other effective and safe methods to deal with ladybug beetles are:
- Use a HEPA filter vacuum. Be sure to empty the vacuum bag after using it.
- Use a broom, sweep the insects into a dustpan or other container and put them outdoors
- * Use insect light traps in locations that stay relatively dark and attractive to ladybug beetles such as attics.
- If the above methods do not work to your satisfaction, your pest management professional may apply the proper insecticides at the right time of the year to control ladybug beetles before they get inside your home.

How to get rid of ladybugs when they're outdoors

During the summer, homeowners can prevent many lady beetle problems. Inspect the outside of the house carefully. Caulk cracks around windows and doors. Check the attic, roof and overhang vents. Repair any damaged screens. Check the weather stripping on all exterior doors. Repair any damaged window screens. Inside the home, patch any holes that lead into the attic.

Insecticide application on the outside of the home will act as a barrier. It will repel many of the pests that gather on the home and keep them from entering. The application should begin in the late summer. Because of temperature and other factors, the barrier will need to be re-applied periodically. The pest control professional has the equipment to make this treatment.

Common Questions Are ladybugs harmful to plants?

It depends on the ladybug beetle species. Some species are predators on other insects, which benefits plants, and others are plant feeders that typically damage agricultural crop plants. Identifying plant feeding ladybug beetles is simpli-

fied if a specimen is collected in the process of feeding and the person who identifies the insect knows what kind of plant the beetle was feeding on when it was captured.

Are ladybugs beetles?

Ladybugs are true beetles in the beetle family Coccinellidae. While they are commonly called ladybugs or ladybirds, pest management professionals generally prefer to call them ladybug beetles or ladybird beetles.

Insects

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Helpful

Plants depend on insects to transfer pollen as they forage, and many insects are quite beneficial to have around. While some pollinate, others are predators of other pests.

Antlion: A foe of ants, they'll help eat and control ant populations and pollinate flowers. They pose no threat to humans, either.

Big dipper firefly: These colorful insects feast on earthworms, slugs and snails during the larval stage. Fireflies add drama to evening gardens with their twinkling lights.

Garden spiders: Although some spiders can be venomous, many are quite handy to have around the garden. They'll help control pest populations that can damage plants and crops.

Dragonflies: These arial artists that zip around the yard are consuming smaller insects that would otherwise pester plants and humans.

Blue-winged wasp: This wasp attacks the larvae of Japanese beetles, helping to control beetle populations.

Bees and butterflies: Butterflies and bees are some of the best pollinators out there, and each can add whimsy to gardens.

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