



Saw Toothed Grain Beetle

Oryzaephilus surinamensis



These common and prolific stored product pests are small, adults are 1/10th to 1/8th inch (2-3mm) long, brown with a flattened body and six saw-toothed projections on each side of the thorax. The larva is yellowish-white, about 2-3mm long, with a brown head. The abdomen tapers toward the tip. The saw-toothed grain beetle is a common pest known throughout most of the world. A closely related species, *Oryzaephilus mercator*, is also important and is often mistaken for the saw-toothed grain beetle. They are active and mobile, usually wandering 6-10 feet from the source of infestation. Adults do not fly and live about 6 to 10 months, with some living up to three years.

The saw-toothed grain beetle is a common pest in grocery stores, food warehouses, and grain storage. It will easily penetrate packaged cereals, dried fruits, candies and will feed on pasta, flour, sugar, nuts and seeds as well as dried meat, and tobacco.

The females live from 6 to 10 months and deposit 45 to 285 eggs in foodstuffs. Several generations may occur each year, as the life cycle requires only 3 to 4 weeks during the summer.

Controlling this pantry pest requires careful inspection of all cereal foods, discarding the heavily infested material, repackaging material in new containers, and vacuuming kitchen cabinets. Vacuuming the cabinets will be much more beneficial than washing them. Vacuuming will remove flour dust and scraps in the cracks and crevices of the cabinet. Washing may make a paste of the flour.

EHS will carefully treat cracks and crevices with an appropriate adulticide and Insect Growth regulator. Please refer to our Stored Product Pest Prep Sheet for specific instructions.

Thank-you