

Homeowner Pre-Treatment Preparation Checklist

Chemical Treatment for Clothes Moths & Carpet Moths (Fabric Pests)

Re-entry time: Typically 4 hours (confirm exact time with your technician)

Proper preparation is essential. Clothes moths and carpet moths (and their larvae) feed on natural fibers such as wool, silk, cashmere, fur, feathers, and blends. Thorough cleaning and clearing access points greatly improve the effectiveness of residual sprays or other chemical applications. Confirm any company-specific instructions, as products and protocols can vary.

1. Vacuum Thoroughly (Critical Step)

- Vacuum all carpets, rugs, and upholstered furniture in affected rooms.
- Focus on carpet edges, along skirting boards/baseboards, under furniture, under beds, behind sofas, inside closets, and other low-disturbance areas.
- Vacuum both sides of area rugs and under stair runners if possible.
- Immediately empty the vacuum bag or canister into a sealed bag and dispose of it in an outdoor bin to prevent eggs, larvae, or insects from escaping back into the home.

2. Clothing, Textiles & Soft Furnishings

- Empty closets, wardrobes, dressers, drawers, and storage areas where moth activity has been seen (or as advised). Move items to a non-treated room if possible.
- Launder washable natural-fiber items (wool, silk, cashmere, etc.) on a hot wash (ideally 60°C / 140°F where fabric allows) or have them professionally dry-cleaned.
- For items that cannot be washed: place in a hot dryer for 30–40 minutes (if fabric-safe) or freeze in sealed bags for at least 48 hours (preferably longer for larger quantities).
- Bag or seal delicate, untreated, or high-value natural-fiber items (wool, silk, cashmere, fur, feathers) and move them out of treatment zones.
- Remove curtains, draperies, and fabric décor where practical; wash or dry-clean them.
- Inspect taxidermy, fabric ornaments, or other natural-fiber items for activity and treat or isolate them as needed.

3. Furniture, Floors & Access

- Move furniture approximately 12 inches (30 cm) away from walls where possible so the technician can access carpet edges, baseboards, and corners.
- Clear floors of loose items (clothes, shoes, bags, toys, books, storage boxes, pet bedding, etc.).
- Remove or clear items from under beds and sofas.
- If heavy furniture sits on carpet that needs treatment, lighten or move it if safely possible so the area underneath can be accessed.
- Dust shelves, units, and closet interiors so the chemical can adhere properly.

4. Other Preparation

- Store any exposed food items away from treatment areas.
- Unplug non-essential electrical items if requested.
- Allow access to lofts, attics, or eaves if these areas are to be inspected or treated (moths often thrive in dark, undisturbed spaces).
- Cover fish tanks/aquariums with a damp towel and turn off aerators/filters.
- Note the location of any pilot lights or open-flame appliances if fumigation or certain products will be used.

5. People, Pets & Safety

- Arrange for **all people and pets** to leave the home during treatment and remain out for the recommended re-entry time (commonly **4 hours**, sometimes 4–6 hours, or until surfaces are fully dry). Confirm the exact time with your technician.
- Inform the company in advance of any pregnancies, infants, allergies, asthma, respiratory issues, or other health sensitivities — additional precautions or longer exclusion may be needed.
- Keep children, pets, and vulnerable people away from treated areas until it is safe to re-enter.

6. Important Do's and Don'ts

- **Do not** use any over-the-counter sprays, foggers, powders, or other pesticides before the appointment — these can interfere with the professional treatment.
- Complete all vacuuming and clearing **before** the technician arrives.
- Do not wipe, mop, or wet-clean treated surfaces immediately after treatment (this removes the residual insecticide). Follow the technician's post-treatment guidance (often avoid heavy cleaning of treated areas for 1–2 weeks).
- After treatment, you may usually return items to closets and furniture once the re-entry period has passed, unless instructed otherwise.

7. After Treatment Notes

Expect some continued activity initially as residual product continues to work on remaining eggs and larvae. A follow-up treatment is often recommended. Continue regular vacuuming (especially edges and under furniture) and store clean natural-fiber items in airtight containers or sealed garment bags long-term to prevent re-infestation.

Always follow the specific written instructions provided by your service company. This checklist is a general guide based on standard professional recommendations.