



# Casemaking Clothes Moth

*Tineola pellionella*

## Description

**Adults:** Up to 8 mm (0.3 inches) long with shiny grey to brown 1-3 small spots on wings. Has a small tuft of brown hairs on top of head.

**Eggs:** Oval, ivory in color and 1 mm (0.04 inches) long.

**Larvae:** Creamy white, black head capsule, 13 mm (0.5 inches) long, found within a silken case that it carries.

**Pupae:** Pupal cases are whitish; often patterned with colored fibers; sometimes hidden in fabric or fur; up to 13 mm (0.5 inches) long.

## Life Cycle

Adult moths live for 15-30 days. Mated females can lay 40-50 eggs singly or in groups. Eggs hatch in 4-10 days in warmer months and up to 30 days in cooler months. Larvae feed and become mature in 35 days or and up to 30 months depending on food quality, temperature and humidity. Pupation will occur in proximity to and within infested materials. Adults will emerge from the pupae in 8 to 40 days depending on temperature.

## Damage and Detection

Larvae damage woolens, silks, furs and materials made with hair and feathers. The primary means of detection is the presence silken cases that contain larvae. During pupation, the silken cases can be found hanging from vertical surfaces and under horizontal surfaces such as shelves or bottoms of furniture. These pupal cases can be also be found within piles of carpet and rugs or underneath these materials. Granular frass, the size of ground pepper, can be found in, on, and under fabric, furs, taxidermy mounts, hanging clothes in closets, rugs, carpets, and upholstered furniture. The use of pheromone traps and inspections can determine location and degree of infestation.

## Corresponding GreenWay Products

- [GreenWay Clothes Moth Trap and Lure \(GW101\)](#)

## QUICK SCAN

### SIZE / LENGTH

Adult 0.3 inch (8 mm)

Eggs 0.04 inch (1 mm)

### COLOR RANGE

Adult Grey to brown, spots on wings

Larvae Creamy white, black head

### LIFE CYCLE

Adults Emerge 8-40 days

Eggs Hatch 4-10 days

Females Lay 40-50 eggs

### FEEDING HABITS

Larvae Prefer: woolens, silks, furs, and materials made with hair and feathers.

### INFESTATION SIGNS

Silken cases that contain larvae hanging from surfaces. Pupal cases can also be found within piles of carpet and rugs.



# Casemaking Clothes Moth Monitoring Guidelines

## Lure

GreenWay Clothes Moth Trap with a separate lure is unique compared to other low cost traps. It contains a special formulated blend of pheromones that can attract the webbing clothes moth (*Tineola bisselliella*), Casemaking clothes moth (*Tinea pellionella*), and the Brown-dotted clothes moth (*Niditinea fuscella*). The amount of pheromone dosed per lure is also typically higher than in mass produced traps. This gives a longer and more consistent capture rate as well as attraction from a further distance.

The lure is made from clean natural wool which is an attractant for female moths. The wool lure is also treated with natural odors to enhance female capture rates. No other trap has this combination of food attraction and natural food odors to enhance the capture of female moths. Traps without this special lure design are limited to random catches of female clothes moths.

## Lure Storage

Keep unopened lures in cool storage less than 16°C (60°F) or place in freezer for extended storage. Lures can remain frozen for up to 12 months or at room temperature for 6 months to retain their full effectiveness for use afterwards.

## Trap Placement Techniques

Capture male and reproductive female clothes moths by placing one GreenWay trap on the floor and one on the shelf in a closet or room with items containing wool, fur, feathers, or other animal hairs.

## Trap and Lure Maintenance

Replace traps when glue is filled with insects or becomes dusty. Replace pheromone lures every 60 days. Replace all pheromone lures in a location at the same time. Record date and number of catches to identify trending information.

## Fun Facts

- Sometimes confused with the webbing clothes moth (*Tineola bisselliella*) and brown dotted clothes moth (*Niditinea fuscella*).
- Other common names for the webbing clothes moth include common clothes moth and clothes moth.
- Like many clothes moth species, adult casemaking clothes moths do not eat. Their larvae are voracious feeders and damage natural fibers.
- Casemaking clothes moths initiate flight at temperatures above 12.5°C (55°F).
- The pheromone that attracts casemaking clothes moths also attracts other moth species including: Webbing clothes moth (*Tineola bisselliella*) and Brown-dotted clothes moth (*Niditinea fuscella*).

