



# Webbing Clothes Moth

*Tineola bisselliella*

## Description

**Adults:** Up to 8.5 mm (0.3 inches) long with shiny golden scales on wings. Webbing clothes moth are one color and do not have spots.

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

**Larvae:** Creamy white, dark brown head capsule, 13 mm (0.5 inches) long

**Pupae:** Pupal cases whitish; sometimes hidden in fabric or fur; up to 13 mm (0.5 inches) long.

## Life Cycle

Adult moths live for 15-30 days where upon 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 as long as 30 months depending on food quality, temperature and humidity. Pupation will occur in infested materials. Adults will emerge from the pupae in 8 to 40 days depending on temperature.

## Damage and Detection

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 when rips or tears expose stuffing. Larvae damage woolens, furs and materials made with hair and feathers. Larvae can feed from short white webbing tunnels, but these are not always present. Pupal cases can be found on surface or within pile of carpet and rugs or underneath these materials. 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 (8.5 mm)

Eggs 0.04 inch (1 mm)

### COLOR RANGE

Adult Long, shiny golden scales on wings

Larvae Creamy white, dark brown head

### LIFE CYCLE

Adults Live 15-30 days

Eggs Hatch 4-10 days

### FEEDING HABITS

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

### INFESTATION SIGNS

Pupal cases can be found on surface or within pile of carpet and rugs or underneath these materials.



# Webbing 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 webbing 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

- Similar species include the casemaking clothes moth (*Tinea pellionella*) 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 webbing clothes moths do not eat. Their larvae are vivacious feeders and damage natural fibers.
- Webbing clothes moths initiate flight at temperatures above 12.5°C (55°F).
- The pheromone that attracts webbing clothes moths also attracts other moth species including: Casemaking clothes moth (*Tinea pellionella*) and Brown-dotted clothes moth (*Niditinea fuscella*).

