

KEEP KHAPRA BEETLE OUT!

Trogoderma granarium

Khapra beetle is a serious agricultural pest that poses a major threat to the Australian grains industry. **Australia is recognised globally as being free of khapra beetle, but it is important to stay vigilant as this 'hitchhiker' pest is spread almost entirely through human mediation.** We can all play a part in preventing the spread of khapra beetle here in Australia.

What is a khapra beetle?

Khapra beetles are typically found throughout Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Europe and are found in some of Australia's key trade partners. It is considered a pest because of how quickly populations build up and contaminate stored grains, rice, oilseeds and dried foodstuffs. The cast skins and hairs from larvae can also be a health risk.

What to look for

- light yellowish brown to dark brown
- oval shaped
- tiny, just 1.6 to 3 millimetres long
- do not fly

Larvae are typically very hairy and are golden brown. Cast larval skins are the most obvious indicator of infestation.

Where can you find them?

Typically, khapra beetles are found in imported shipping containers, goods from overseas and used packing materials (sacks, bags, crates and cardboard).

The beetles are small and can be found sheltering in cracks of walls, under paint, between joins and under floors in containers.

To check for infestations, inspect all cracks and crevices in storage areas, including behind panelling on walls and under floors, or the corners of sacks and bags. For shipping containers, pay attention to any residual contaminants, for example grains as these are a food source for khapra beetles.



Actual size



Male, female and larvae



Cast larval skins. Image courtesy of Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

THE RISKS

What an outbreak could mean for Australia



A khapra beetle outbreak in Australia could have **substantial economic consequences and health risks.**

It could even **cost Australia 15.5 billion over 20 years** due to lost revenue from **damaged grain exports and storage.**

WHAT TO DO

If you think you have seen khapra beetles or evidence of an infestation, you can **report it to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment on 1800 798 636.** It is crucial that you stop all movement of goods and secure the contaminated product.

THINK YOU'VE SEEN KHAPRA BEETLE?
Report without delay
1800 798 636

