

Multi-Colored Asian Ladybird Beetle (Ladybug)
(Harmonia axyridis)



What to look for: These adult ladybugs are a dull orange color and range from having from zero to nineteen black spots on their wing covers (elytra). They are active all summer long outdoors and are beneficial by feeding on aphids, scale insects, and other insect pests. However, in the autumn, they seek an over-wintering site that often involves their migration into interior spaces of homes. Large, light-colored houses that are in exposed areas are often more susceptible to congregating beetles. However, all houses are susceptible. When in large numbers, their presence can be quite dramatic when they appear by the hundreds or thousands. When handled, they exude "blood" as a natural defense, which can stain furniture, walls, and clothing. In addition, this beetle also has an offensive odor. They do not feed nor breed indoors, nor do they bite or sting people; they are merely unwanted house guests.

What to do: Inspect and repair all holes in screening on windows, doors and attic vents. Also, inspect all caulking in those areas as well, and repair as needed. To remove these beetles once they are indoors, they can be vacuumed up (use a simple vacuum, a beater bar will damage the beetles). Remove the vacuum bag from the cleaner and either destroy the insects within **or** store the bag (with the ladybugs) in a plastic bag in an unheated building. They will go dormant and can then be released back into the landscape in the spring to become beneficial once again. The insides of most houses are too warm and dry for these beetles to over-winter successfully.

