

## General Information

The house dust mite is nearly impossible to see without **magnification**. A typical mattress can contain tens of thousands of dust mites. Nearly 100,000 mites can live in a single square yard of carpet!

<b>Size</b>	1/75 <sup>th</sup> of an inch"	<b>Common Name</b>	Dust Mites
<b>Shape</b>	Flat, broad, oval	<b>Kingdom</b>	Animalia
<b>Color</b>	Off white to tan	<b>Phylum</b>	Arthropoda
<b>Legs</b>	8	<b>Class</b>	Arachnida
<b>Wings</b>	No	<b>Order</b>	Acariformes
<b>Antenna</b>	No	<b>Family</b>	Pyroglyphidae
		<b>Genus Species</b>	Dermatophagoides farinae

## Diet

Dust mites primarily feed on dead skin shed by humans and other animals. They can also absorb moisture from the air.

## Habitat

Dust mites are most often found in beds. They may also be found living in carpet, furniture, and clothing.

## Impact

Dust mites are harmless to most people. They carry small foreign proteins, often referred to as "allergens". They don't carry diseases, but these proteins can cause **allergic reactions** in **asthmatics** and others by triggering the **immune system** to over react.

## Prevention

- \* Change your sheets often.
- \* Vacuum frequently.
- \* Use a vacuum cleaner with a HEPA filter.
- \* If dust mites are a real problem in your home, call a pest management professional.

To learn more about this and other pests, visit <http://www.pestworldforkids.org/research.html>