

IRP (Insect Resistant Packaging)

Is your commodity protected from infestation?

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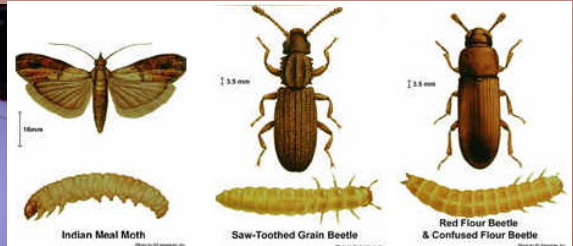
No one wants to open their breakfast cereal, flour or pet food and find it infested with insects. Even if these events represent a rare occurrence, they make a lasting impression which results in the loss of consumer good will and makes that product label, in the consumer's mind, synonymous with an infested, filthy product. Manufacturers of food, feed, and other processed or value-added grain products want to avoid these incidents and provide consumers with high-quality products.

As a packaging manufacturer the need for insect resistant packaging should be an integral part of quality assurance for your consumers. Northwest Coatings' IRP laboratory and testing facilities has the potential to aid in controlling infestations in warehousing and storage, minimize product losses in the supply chain, as well as minimizing consumer complaints such as pantry infestations evaluating IRP designs.

Northwest Coatings' walk-in environmental growth chambers regulate both temperature and humidity at a range that supports a stored product pests' optimal development (approximately 80° F, and 60 % relative humidity). We are currently cultivating three stored product pests: the Indian meal moth (IMM), the red flour beetle (RFB), and the sawtoothed grain beetle (STGB) for research purposes. The implementation of this new service addresses the concerns expressed by the packaging industry regarding consumer complaints about infested products. The amount of product that can be tested depends on the number of treatments, size of the packages and the amount of testing space available. Those parameters are tailored to the specific need of the client. The results are strictly confidential and are reported in terms of percent packages infested as well as number of insects present per pound of product tested. A thorough inspection of the package will be performed; points of insect entry identified and recommendations for improvements are given.

If you have questions regarding the vulnerability of your packages to insect damage, or if you are interested in testing our new insect suppressive packaging coating material on your products, we invite any interested parties to visit our test facility or contact our research technical director: Jade Vardeman,

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Left: Environmental growth chambers

Right: IMM, STGB, RFB adults and larvae

Bottom: Example of space available inside a chamber