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### **Asian Lady Bugs**

As the days get shorter and nighttime temperatures drop, people are starting to notice Asian ladybugs gathering in or on their homes. The multicolored Asian ladybug is bright orange with spots. They have a dark black inverted W right behind the head on the thorax. While ladybugs are usually considered beneficial in the garden because they eat insect pests like aphids, they can be a nuisance in the fall when they invade buildings and homes. “Fortunately, they are not dangerous to people, pets or the structure of the home.”

The best way to manage Asian ladybugs is to prevent them from getting inside the home in the first place. Remove air conditioners when they are no longer needed and take care to seal up cracks around windows and doors, particularly on the sunny southern and western sides of the house.

For those of us that are witnessing the ladybugs in our homes, the Asian ladybug can be swept into a jar and released outdoors or sucked up with a vacuum cleaner. “When ladybugs are disturbed, they often release an unpleasant odor and produce a yellowish staining fluid which can damage light colored rugs and upholstery. Staining is less likely to occur when vacuuming as opposed to sweeping them up. Asian ladybugs may bite if picked up with bare hands, however this rarely happens. These bites are not serious—the equivalent to the feeling of a pinprick—and can be avoided by wearing gloves. (UNH Extension)

K-State Research and Extension Specialist Jeff Whitworth (2016) says, the beetles aren’t on the label of a pesticide because they are not considered an agricultural pest. However, if you use any crack or crevice treatments for spiders and the residual is around, that will kill the lady beetles, too. If you remove them and put a crack and crevice treatment around your house it will help.

Source: <https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/.../11/asian-lady-beetles.html>  
<https://extension.unh.edu/.../how-can-i-get-rid-asian...>