

Protect dried flowers from insects by keeping them clean, dry, and away from other materials that may harbor pests. Check arrangements regularly, isolate anything suspicious, and remove infested material before insects can spread.

Choose a suitable place

Keep dried flowers indoors in a dry room with good airflow. Damp conditions can encourage mold, which may attract insects that feed on it. Avoid storing flowers in a damp basement, a humid bathroom, or a shed where pests can enter easily.

For flowers you are not displaying, use a clean container with a tight fitting lid. A rigid box gives delicate stems more protection than a bag. Make sure the flowers are fully dry before sealing them inside, since trapped moisture can cause damage.

Store the container away from wool, feathers, dried foods, and other natural materials that can also attract household pests. Keeping these items apart makes an infestation easier to contain and helps you see where a problem started.

Inspect flowers before bringing them in

Look closely at new dried flowers before adding them to an arrangement or storage box. Check flower heads, leaves, and the spaces where stems meet. Small insects can hide in folds and among tightly packed petals.

Keep a new bundle separate from your other dried flowers for a few weeks. Check it again during that time, particularly if you notice loose debris underneath. Separation is useful even when the flowers look clean at first.

Watch for these signs during routine checks:

- Small live insects or larvae on the flowers or nearby surface
- Fine debris, holes, or damaged petals that were not there before
- Webbing, shed skins, or tiny insect droppings among the stems
- Fresh damage appearing after you have cleaned the area

Keep displays clean

Dust dried arrangements gently and check beneath the vase or container. A soft brush can reach between sturdy stems, while a gentle flow of cool air may help remove loose dust. Handle fragile petals as little as possible.

Vacuum shelves and nearby corners, including cracks where debris collects. Empty the vacuum promptly into a sealed bag if you have found insects. Remove fallen petals and leaves rather than letting them accumulate around the display.

Take a closer look every few weeks and whenever you move an arrangement. A regular check gives you a chance to spot damage while it is still limited.

Act if you find insects

Move the affected flowers away from other natural decorations. Place them in a sealed bag while you decide what to do, so insects cannot readily escape into another room.

If the flowers are badly infested, discard them in a sealed bag and clean the place where they stood. For a valuable arrangement or a recurring problem, ask a pest management professional to identify the insect and suggest an appropriate treatment. Avoid spraying insecticides directly on flowers without checking the product label.

A little attention to storage and cleaning can help dried flowers stay attractive for longer. Keep an eye on them, and deal with any signs of insects promptly.

Have a look at seasonal cut flowers