Insect pests that cause damage to museum collections can be arranged into the following groups based on the types of food sources they seek, please note that larvae is the feeding stage of development and that this list is not comprehensive but intended as a quick reference guide:

* Textile or Fabrics Pests (including silk): *clothes moths, carpet beetles, larder beetles and hide Beetles (keratin feeders), damp textiles can also be attacked by silverfish.*
* Wood Pests: *wood-boring/powderpost beetles and drywood termites.*
* Paper Pests: *Silverfish and firebrats (starch feeders).*
* Dried food: Indian meal moth, cigarette beetle, biscuit beetle,
* Organic material in scientific collections:
* Plant material: cigarette beetle, biscuits beetles,
* Skins: *Hide and larder beetles,* Clothes moth, Larder beetle
* Feathers: Clothes moth, Carpet beetle, Larder beetle,
* Dried invertebrates: cigarette beetle, biscuit beetle,
* Fur: Clothes moth, Carpet beetle, Larder beetle
* Wool: Clothes moth, Carpet beetle, Larder beetle,