BUGS have invaded my house!  
What are they?

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (Halyomorpha halys) is a native of Eastern Asia and was first detected in Pennsylvania in October 2001. The insects often are found in houses, where they produce an unpleasant smelling chemical. They can be an agricultural pest, threatening apples, pears, peaches, figs, mulberries, citrus, persimmon and soybeans. Brown marmorated stink bugs are not harmful to people, houses, or pets. They do not bite, sting, suck blood, or spread mammalian diseases; and they do not eat or bore into wood structures. Residents may become alarmed when the bugs enter their homes and noisily fly about when lights are on. However, the stink bug will not reproduce or cause damage inside structures.

Western Conifer Seed Bug

Leptoglossus occidentalis Heidemann; Family: Coreidae

These bugs use piercing-sucking mouthparts to pierce the scales of conifer seeds and suck out the seed pulp. The list of host plants includes white pine, red pine, Scotch pine, Austrian pine, mugo pine, white spruce, Douglas fir and hemlock. Often these trees are planted or are growing near homes, and if that is the case, the bugs may seek the nearby buildings as an overwintering site.

In spring these bugs move out of doors to coniferous trees nearby. The bugs feed on the developing seeds and early flowers of different species of conifers. Females are reported to lay rows of eggs on needles of the host trees, which hatch in about 10 days. Young nymphs then begin to feed on tender cone scales and sometimes the needles. The nymphs are orange and brown, becoming reddish-brown to brown as they develop. Nymphs pass through five stages and reach adulthood by late August. Adults feed on ripening conifer seeds until they seek overwintering quarters.
Boxelder Bug

*Boisea trivittata* (Say); Family: Rhopalidae

The boxelder bug may be a pest of Boxelder and Maple trees feeding on the seeds. Homeowners are most concerned when the start to congregate on warm surfaces in great numbers and start to invade houses. The bugs overwinter as adults and nymphs in protected dry places, firewood piles, in wall voids or attics of houses and buildings. During warm days in the fall and again in the spring, the bugs become active and invade homes, creating a nuisance. They do not feed while indoors. Building surfaces that are exposed to the sun and stay warm longer may be made less desirable by shading them. Aggregations of the bugs may be washed from the sides of buildings with a strong spray of water. They will return however, if the site is still warm. Covering firewood may prevent the bugs from accumulating there.

Multi-colored Asian Lady Beetle

*Harmonia axyridis* (Pallas); Family: Coccinellidae

The multicolored Asian lady beetle, first found in New York State in Chemung County in early 1994, is an introduced biological control agent that has spread rapidly throughout the northeastern states. It has become a major nuisance to homeowners because of its habit of invading houses and buildings in large numbers in the fall (mid-October to early November) and appearing again on warm, sunny days in February and March. Despite its annoyance value, *H. axyridis* preys upon many species of injurious soft-bodied insects such as aphids, scales, and psyllids and is thus considered beneficial to growers and agriculturalists.

Indoors, the beetles commonly cluster together in a corner of the ceiling and wall. Homeowners may complain about beetles crunching under foot and crawling on their arms, hands, and legs. They can bite if handled carelessly, but the beetles do not sting or carry human diseases. The beetles do not reproduce indoors, nor do they feed on wood, clothing, food, or houseplants. Overall, *H. axyridis* is a welcome addition to the fauna of New York, and it may help reduce farmers' reliance on insecticides to control aphids and other soft-bodied insect pests.

Management

The use of insecticides for controlling these insects is not recommended and is strongly discouraged. The best technique for managing these insects is first to prevent their entry into houses and other buildings by sealing cracks and openings around windows, doors, siding, and utility pipes with a quality silicone or silicone-latex caulk. Similarly, repair door and window screens or other openings to the outdoors using regular window screening (about 18-x-16 mesh size). If insects still gain entry into living spaces, then it is recommended to remove and dispose of them using a broom and dustpan or vacuum cleaner *(make sure to empty vacuum when finished)* and release them outdoors.

Ref. Cornell Entomology Lab Fact Sheets http://idl.entomology.cornell.edu/factsheets/