

Sowbugs Versus Pill Bugs

by Carol Ann Harlos

Recently a discussion occurred regarding the difference between sowbugs and pillbugs. Neither are insects...they are both crustaceans making them both more closely related to shrimp! They prefer moist conditions. They cannot bite or sting you. No known diseases seem to be transmitted by either one! You may find them in wood, some food, clothes, and other organic matter so they are both a nuisance. They are found in crawl spaces, basements, and ground-level first floors.

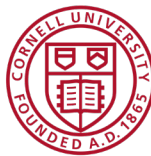


Both sowbugs and pillbugs are a quarter to a half-inch long and gray. Their bodies are oval with segments on top and generally flat underneath. They have seven pairs of legs. They also have two pairs of antennae but only one pair is visible to the naked eye.

So what's the difference? Sowbugs have two appendages that project from their back end like tails. Pillbugs don't have these tail-like appendages so they can roll into a ball.



To get rid of them clean and get rid of moist decaying items. Insecticides don't work (well they aren't insects!). Look at the pictures to the right. Which is which?



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