

BED BUGS

Recognize the Signs:

Identification

Carpet beetles, fleas, lice, roaches, ticks, bat bugs and even seeds and lint have all been mistaken for bed bugs!

- Bed bug adults are dorsally flat, ¼” long and tan to brownish in color
- Bed bug nymphs look similar to adults only smaller.
- Bed bugs do not jump, fly or hop – they only walk.



Prevention: Vigilance is key!

Everyday prevention tips:


- Regularly inspect bed sheets, mattresses and areas where pets sleep.
- Thoroughly inspect any new furniture before bringing it into your home
- When shopping, inspect clothing carefully before purchasing and immediately wash new clothing in hot water.
- Regularly inspect children’s backpacks and jackets when they return home from school.

Tips for traveling:


- When checking into a hotel room, place suitcases directly into the bathtub and thoroughly check underneath mattresses, behind headboards and around baseboards.
- Vacuum suitcases and wash all clothes in hot water after returning from any vacation.

DID YOU KNOW?

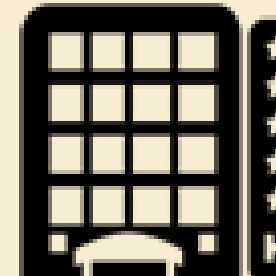
The top 3 places pest control professionals have treated bed bugs are:



Apartments & Condominiums




Single-family homes




Hotels & Motels


Numbers of reported bed bug infestations have increased in recent years due to:




Increased travel




Increased resistance to pesticides




Lack of knowledge of preventative practices




Ineffective pest control practices




1 bed bug can produce hundreds of offspring



They can survive temperatures of nearly freezing to 120°F



They can live up to 1 year without feeding



It takes 3-5 minutes for a bed bug to feed.



Small reddish brown fecal spots



Molted skins



Tiny, white eggs



Red, itchy bite marks on skin

Bed Bug Control Options

Non-Chemical Methods:

- Heat infested articles/areas to >120°F for at least 90 minutes.
- Place bedding and clothing in dryer at high temperatures for at least 30 minutes.
- Cold treatments (below 0°F for at least 4 days) can eliminate some infestations.
- Use mattress, box spring and pillow encasements to trap bed bugs and help detect infestations.
- Use monitoring devices to ensure bed bugs have been eradicated and to detect new infestations.

Chemical Control Methods:

- Always read and follow all directions on the pesticide product label.
- Use a comprehensive strategy for controlling bed bugs – pesticides should be one part of a multi-part IPM plan.
- You may want to consult a pest control professional to inspect your home and treat any infestations.
- For suggested pesticide products consult the “Bed Bug Product Search Tool” available through EPA’s website.