



## **IDENTIFYING THE BED BUG**

- 3/16" long, broadly oval shape
- Adult bed bug reddish brown, wingless (flattened body when unfed)
- Unfed bed bug nymph is straw colored (after feeding nymph is crimson red)
- Lay 1-5 eggs per day (21 days from egg to adult)

## **HOW INFESTATIONS ORIGINATE**

- Bed bugs are efficient "hitchhikers" and are usually transported on luggage, clothing, beds, furniture, etc.
- Outbreaks can often be traced to travel, especially in countries or cities where bed bugs are common. (This is a particular problem for hotels, motels, and apartments, where turnover of occupants is constant.)
- Bed bugs are small, escaping detection after crawling into suitcases, boxes, and belongings. The eggs are almost invisible when laid on most surfaces.
- Use of secondhand beds, couches, and furniture is another way that the bugs are transported into previously non-infested dwellings.
- Bed bugs can migrate from one room or apartment unit to the next through pipe and wiring runs, and in wall and ceiling voids. Found most often in hotels, apartments, rooming houses, schools, homeless shelters and private homes, bed bugs can infest hospitals, nursing homes, trains, planes, buses, cruise ships, theaters, moving vans or any place frequented by people.

## **INSECTICIDE TREATMENT**

- Insecticides are important for bed bug elimination. (Baits designed to control ants and cockroaches are ineffective). Residual insecticides (usually pyrethroid-based products) are applied as spot treatments to cracks and crevices (from ground level to the ceiling) where bed bugs are hiding.
- Insecticide dust formulations may be used to treat wall voids, hollow bed frames, headboards, etc. Repeat insecticide applications if bed bugs are present 30 days after the initial treatment since hidden eggs may have hatched and hidden adults may be inactive for long periods of time.
- DO NOT USE INSECTICIDE on a mattress unless the product label specifically mentions such use.

# BED BUGS

"Something biting  
in the night..."

**FOR PROFESSIONAL  
BED BUG TREATMENT  
CALL:**



**Buckeye Exterminating, Inc.  
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P.O. Box 246  
Ottoville, OH 45876**

**Phone (800) 523-1521  
Fax (419) 453-3937  
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## **INTERESTING FACTS...**

- Although bed bugs can live for a year or as much as 18 months without feeding, they typically seek blood every five to ten days. Bed bugs are generally active only at night, with a peak attack period about an hour before dawn, though given the opportunity, they may attempt to feed at other times of day.
- One bed bug often inflicts multiple bites when feeding (which takes about 3 to 10 minutes), yet the person seldom knows they are being bitten. Many people develop an itchy red welt or localized swelling, which sometimes appears a day or so after the bite. Others have little or no reaction. Bed bugs feed on any bare skin exposed while sleeping (face, neck, shoulders, arms, hands, etc.). Bed bugs feed solely upon the blood of warm-blooded animals. They are also known to feed on household pets.
- Bed bugs tend to live in clusters. They are capable of traveling as far as 100 feet to feed, but usually remain close to the host in bedrooms or on sofas where people may sleep.
- Bed bugs hide during the day, usually near sleeping areas in cracks in walls, behind baseboards, under mattresses, inside box springs, in furniture, under wallpaper or pictures, switch plates or outlets, in drapes, under rugs or under carpet along walls, under window or door frames. Cluttered conditions can offer the bed bugs a lot of excellent harborages very near their human blood-meal hosts. Harborage sites are marked by brown or black spots of dried blood fecal matter.
- Bed bug scent gland secretions cause a distinctive "sweet-smelling" obnoxious odor.
- Bed bugs have been documented to have at least 28 different kinds of human pathogens in their bodies. However, very careful and detailed studies by both entomologists and medical doctors have never shown that bed bugs could transmit (infect) even one of those pathogens to humans or lab animals. They simply have not been shown to transmit any human disease known so far. Antihistamines and corticosteroids may be prescribed to reduce allergic reactions, and antiseptic or antibiotic ointments to prevent infection.

## **SIGNS & SYMPTOMS OF BED BUG BITES**

- Bed bug-bite signs and symptoms will usually only affect the surface of the skin, revealing themselves as small itchy red bumps known as papules or wheals. You might find the lesions in a linear or clustered fashion, indicative of repeated feedings by a single bed bug.



- Large, itchy wheals up to 20 cm across
- Blister-like skin inflammations
- Groups of small, swollen sacs of pus
- Skin rashes similar to hives

## **THE BED BUG INSPECTION**

- Thoroughly examine mattresses, box springs and crevices of wooden bed frames looking for the presence of bed bugs and/or small red to reddish brown fecal spots here and there on surfaces. In hotels, apartments and other multiple-type dwellings, it is advisable to also inspect adjoining units since bed bugs can travel long distances.



- Inspect wall hangings, picture frames, furniture, night stands, stuffed furniture. Check baseboards, floorboard cracks, under edges of carpeting, behind loose wallpaper, light switches, door and window frames

## **BED BUG CONTROL MEASURES**

- To prevent the infestation of bed bugs, carefully inspect clothing and baggage of travelers watching for bed bugs and their fecal spots. Also, inspect secondhand beds, bedding and furniture. Do not bring infested items into the home!
- Infested bedding and garments will need to be bagged and laundered (120°F minimum), or discarded since these items cannot be treated with insecticides. Items that cannot be laundered can be de-infested by heating in a clothes dryer at a high temperature for 1 hour.
- Attempts to rid an entire home or apartment of bed bugs by raising or lowering the thermostat will be entirely unsuccessful.
- Although sanitation is very important when preparing for bed bug treatment, most housecleaning measures are of little benefit in ridding the bed bug infestation. Site-specific vacuuming can help remove some of the bugs before treatment, however, bed bugs (especially the eggs) can be difficult to dislodge. Optimum results will be achieved by moving and scraping the end of the suction wand along infested areas such as seams, tufts and edges of bedding, and the perimeter edge of wall-to-wall carpets. After vacuuming, immediately remove the vacuum cleaner bag and put its contents into a tightly sealed plastic bag and discard in an outside trash bin.
- Steam cleaning of carpets may be helpful for killing bed bugs and eggs that vacuuming may have missed. (Steam cleaning of mattresses generally is not recommended because it is difficult to get rid of excess moisture, which can lead to problems with mold, mildew, etc.)
- A stiff brush can be used to scrub the mattress seams to dislodge bed bugs and eggs. (Discarding the mattress is an option, although a new mattress can quickly become infested if bed bugs are still on the premises.) After the mattress and box springs are vacuumed or scrubbed, they may be enclosed in a zippered mattress encasement. Any bed bugs remaining on the mattress will be trapped inside the cover but can live for up to 18 months without feeding.