



Bed Bug Information

Introduction:

Bedbug complaints are on the rise nationwide. Panic and fear often accompany these reports. We hope that by sharing information an effective plan will be developed for remediating infestations when they occur.

What are Bed Bugs?

- Bed bugs are parasites that prefer human blood but will feed on mammals and birds. Some people are very sensitive to bed bug bites and develop large welts as big as a half-dollar which itch intensely, while others are hardly aware of them.
- Bed bugs are oval, flat (when not engorged) parasites almost 7 mm long and brownish in color. A large number of these nocturnal (night active) pests may be present in bedrooms, mattresses, bed springs, curtain hems, furniture, baseboards, and behind loose wallpaper. Frequently, the first sign of a bed bug infestation is tiny spots of blood or dead parasites on the bedding.
- Generally, bed bugs are found in bedrooms where they feed on people at night, but infestations have also been reported in theaters, buses, and offices. The greatest risk of encountering bed bugs appears to be while people are traveling, but infestations in apartment buildings and college dorms have become more frequent.

Prevention:

- Bed bugs are often carried into a home by furniture, luggage, and clothing.
- Use caution when bringing home used furniture or clothes. Inspect the seams, creases, folds, cracks, and crevices of second hand items before bringing them into your residence.
- Because the chances of encountering bed bugs increases with travel, inspect the bed, bedding, and furnishings in your room when traveling.
- Keep your luggage after traveling in an isolated area such as a garage or sealed in a plastic bag until it can be inspected. Wash and dry all clothing after traveling and brush down seams of luggage prior to storage.

Monitoring & Survey:

- A pest control professional may recommend monitoring and surveying to best determine the extent of the infestation and treatment plan.
- Daily activity may be monitored using tape or traps near sleeping areas to determine the extent of problem. Tape can be placed along the baseboards, legs of beds, and other potential hiding places.



Additional Information

Centers for Disease Control
www.cdc.gov/parasites/bedbugs

University of Minnesota
www.ipmctoc.umn.edu

Emergency, Community,
Health and Outreach
www.echominnesota.org

Control:

- Furniture and items from an infested room should not be moved to other rooms to prevent further spread.
- Vacuum daily and eliminate harborage sites. Discard vacuum cleaner bags immediately in a sealed plastic bag.
- Launder clothing, towels, bedding and seal the items in plastic bags until the bed bugs have been eliminated.
- Placing double-sided tape around the legs of the bed can help restrict access to sleeping areas of humans and pets. Without a blood meal the bed bug will not be able to reproduce.

Treatment:

- An assessment to the extent of the problem should be determined by a survey.
- Eradication can only be achieved through detailed inspections and treatment of bed bugs. Eliminating bed bugs can be expensive and requires a pest control strategy known as an Integrated Pest Management Plan. Treatment can take weeks to several months. Several treatments may be necessary for complete success.
- Treatment areas must be accessible, which requires moving furniture away from walls, removing drawers, and emptying shelves. Treat all areas of infestation at the same time to prevent pest relocation. Ensure the complete area of infestation is known and treatment boundaries are adequately established prior to treatment.
- Spaces adjacent to an infected area which are joined by a common wall, floor, and ceiling must be surveyed for possible treatment in multi-family housing units.
- Bedbugs do have cold and heat tolerances.



Frequently Asked Questions:

Do store bought pest treatment kits work?

If you are planning on using a store bought pest treatment kit then the label must specify bed bugs. Then the kit must be used in accordance with all labeling.

I think I found a bed bug what should I do?

Look in the phone book, search online or ask family and friends for a professional pest management resource that is capable of identifying and treating bed bugs.

Do bed bugs carry disease or cause illness?

These parasites have never been found to transmit disease despite many careful studies.

Will moving get rid of the bed bug problem?

Without the right precautions and treatment measures bed bugs are likely to move with you.

If I move into an apartment that has been vacant six months is it possible for the unit to be invested with bed bugs?

It is possible because bed bugs can live up to one year without a blood meal.

Are there treatments that do not require chemical use?

Circulating dry (convection) heating is effective in treating bed bugs in all of their hiding places.

Per City of St. Cloud
Ordinance Section 300:41
Extermination

308.1 Infestation.

All structures shall be kept free from insect and rodent infestations by the owner. All structures in which insects or rodents are found shall be promptly exterminated by approved processes that will not be injurious to human health. After extermination, proper precautions shall be taken to prevent re-infestation.

308.2 Owner.

The owner of any structure shall be responsible for extermination within the structure prior to renting or leasing the structure.