

—BED BUG— AWARENESS

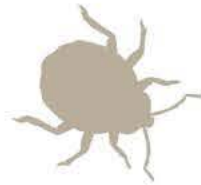


Florida Department of
Agriculture and Consumer Services

IDENTIFICATION

Learn how to identify bed bug infestations

What to look for:



Specific bed
bug evidence



Live bed
bugs and/or
molted skins



Fecal spots



Bed bug
aggregations



HOW TO INSPECT A ROOM FOR BED BUGS

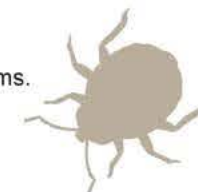
Inspection preparation: To perform a thorough inspection of the affected area, you must use a flashlight and a magnifying glass. It is recommended that the inspection be performed during the evening hours when bed bugs are most active.

The eight
points of
bed bug
inspection



Look for evidence of bed bugs in the following *eight points of inspection*:

1. **Mattress/Box Springs** Check for spots on sheets. Examine mattress seams. Bed bugs are most likely to be found on undersides.
2. **Bed frame and head board** Check cracks and corners. It is recommended to vacuum up what you find.
3. **Furniture near bed** Check in cracks and corners and any unfinished wood (rougher surface) areas. Studies have shown that bed bugs prefer these areas for laying their eggs.
4. **Picture frames** Look on the back, corners, cracks and seams.
5. **Curtains** Look in pleats and seams.



6. **Kick plates** Look in cracks and crevices.
7. **Popcorn ceiling** Look where walls meet the ceiling, around ceiling fixtures, and in other cracks and crevices in the popcorn ceiling.
8. **Chairs and sofas** Check seams, cracks and crevices and unfinished wood areas.

PREVENTION TIPS

Keep alert when traveling, moving, and if bringing in used furniture from outside!

When Traveling:

1. Inspect for signs of bed bug infestations at the eight inspection points.
2. If you suspect there is an infestation, report it to management immediately.
3. Keep luggage and other personal items on luggage rack away from upholstered surfaces and walls.
4. Do not place items under the bed.

When Moving:

1. Avoid bringing used furniture or other goods into your home. Do not bring in curbside items, they may be infested!
2. If you help a friend move, make sure to inspect your vehicle afterwards to avoid bringing bed bugs into your house.
3. Remove clutter and avoid crowded living areas.
4. Use box springs and mattress encasements that are bed bug proof.

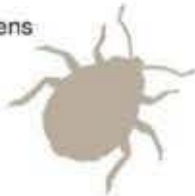
AT THE LAUNDROMAT:

Many people could bring bed bug infested clothing for washing and drying to laundromat facilities. It's possible that bed bug infested-bags are discarded in the trash.

- ▼ Avoid placing laundry bags or baskets near seating areas or trash cans.
- ▼ Use white, plastic baskets that are easy to inspect.
- ▼ Inspect common areas such as tables before placing your clothes on them.
- ▼ Wash and dry bed bug-infested linens and clothing at high temperatures.

CONTROL:

- ▼ Avoid using pesticide bug bombs or total release foggers to treat for bed bugs.
- ▼ Recent studies have shown that certain fogger pesticides are ineffective for bed bug control and can be dangerous if applied incorrectly. Make any applications only in accordance with the pesticide label. It's the law!
- ▼ Use a vacuum cleaner (with a disposable filter) to remove the bed bugs and their cast skins from all areas.
- ▼ Seal any holes and crevices on the wall or ceiling.
- ▼ Use interceptor traps that can be placed on the legs of the infested furniture.
- ▼ When available, use a hot steam machine to kill large numbers of bed bugs in heavily infested areas.



BED BUGS ARE HERE!



Background:

Bed bugs are blood sucking insects that have cohabitated with humans for thousands of years. Since the late 1990s there has been a steady increase in numbers in several countries including the U.S. Many factors have contributed to the re-emergence of the pest. These are:

- ▼ A dramatic increase in international travel and commerce.
- ▼ Change in pest control practices and pesticide availability such as DDT, Lindane, Malathion and Pyrethroids.
- ▼ Resistance to some pesticides.
- ▼ Lack of public awareness, which contributes to dispersal of bed bugs.

Bed
bug size
comparison



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT BED BUGS

- ▼ **What are bed bugs?** Small, nocturnal insects that feed on both animal and human blood.
- ▼ **How do they look?** They are very small; about the size of an apple seed. They are flat, brown, oval, and do not have wings. They give off a musty, sweetish odor. After a blood meal they become swollen and dark red.

BED BUG QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

How long does it take bed bugs to grow from egg stage to adult stage?

About five (5) weeks. They must have a blood meal between each stage.

How long do bed bugs live?

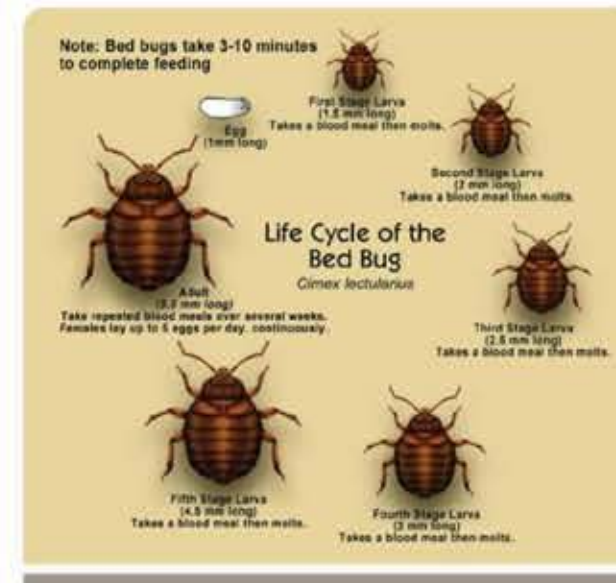
They can live up to 12 months and a single female will usually lay about 3-5 eggs per day but can lay up to 12, and may produce as many as 400 eggs in their lifetime!

What is meant by "bed bugs' cryptic lifestyle"?

This refers to the tendency of bed bugs to spend the majority of their time hiding in cracks and crevices where they will not be easily noticed or disturbed. It makes early detection a difficult task.

Is it a good idea to abandon a room where bed bugs have been detected?

No, bed bugs are attracted to the carbon dioxide gas that is given off through exhalation, and to body heat.



They are likely to be found in areas where there is a human host. If the person moves to another location, bed bugs will simply wander around until they find another host.

Can bed bugs spread diseases?

Bed bugs have not been shown to cause or spread diseases. However, bed bug bites can cause allergic reactions or infections caused from scratching.

If they have no wings, how do bed bugs travel?

They can travel on your luggage, clothes, used furniture, etc. A single mated female brought into a home can cause an infestation without having a male present.

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