

GOT BED BUGS....WE CAN HELP!

What are bed bugs?

Bed bugs are small wingless insects that feed solely upon the blood of warm-blooded animals. Bed bugs and their relatives have evolved as nest parasites. Certain kinds inhabit bird nests and bat roosts and await the return of their hosts; others have adapted well to living in the 'nests' (homes) of people.

Hatchling bed bugs are about the size of a poppy seed, and adults are about 1/4 of an inch in length. From above they are oval in shape, but are flattened from top to bottom.



Their color ranges from nearly white (just after molting) or a light tan to a deep brown or burnt orange. The host's blood may appear as a dark red or black mass within the bug's body. Because they never develop wings, bed bugs cannot fly. When disturbed, bed bugs actively seek shelter in dark cracks and crevices. Cast skins of bed bugs are sometimes discovered. Although such a finding confirms that bed bugs had been present previously, it does not confirm that any continue to infest the residence. Thus, inspect carefully for live crawling bed bugs. Because many other kinds of small brown bugs may be discovered, it is critical to ensure that the bugs are correctly identified.

Where do bed bugs occur?

Bed bugs and their relatives occur nearly worldwide. Bed bugs became relatively scarce during the latter part of the 20th century, but their populations have resurged in recent years, particularly throughout parts of North America, Europe, and Australia. They are most abundant in rooms where people sleep, and they generally hide nearest the bed or other furniture used for sleeping. Bed bugs are most active in the middle of the night, but when hungry, they will venture out during the day to seek a host. Their flattened bodies allow them to conceal themselves in cracks and crevices around the room and within furniture. Favored hiding sites include the bed frame, mattress and box spring. Clutter around the room offers additional sites for these bugs to hide, and increases the difficulty in eliminating bed bugs once they have become established.

How do bed bugs invade a home?

Because bed bugs readily hide in small crevices, they may accompany (as stowaways) luggage, furniture, clothing, pillows, boxes, and other such objects when these are moved between apartments, homes and hotels. Used furniture, particularly bed frames and mattresses, are of

greatest risk of harboring bed bugs and their eggs. Thus, one should carefully scrutinize and consider the history of any used furniture, particularly 'street' items so plentiful at the beginning and end of each academic year. Because they readily survive for many months without feeding, bed bugs may already be present in apparently 'vacant' and 'clean' apartments. Bed bugs can wander between adjoining apartments through voids in walls and holes through which wires and pipes pass. In a few cases, bats and/or birds may introduce and maintain bed bugs and their close relatives (bat bugs and bird bugs). Pest control personnel should be mindful of the presence of blood feeding insects and mites that may be left behind after removing nests or roosts of birds and bats in and on the home.

Work Cited

Richard Pollack, PhD, Harvard School of Public Health, <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/bedbugs>

Gary Alpert, PhD, Environmental Health and Safety, Harvard University

How do we treat for bed bugs?

The first thing to do prior to a treatment for bed bugs by Delsea is for the homeowner, tenant, or landlord to prepare the site for us. Here are the key elements for that preparation:

1. All bedding should be removed from the bed and washed in hot water. When transporting these items, place them in plastic bags.
2. All dresser drawers should be emptied. Clothing should be placed in plastic bags and washed. Items that can not be washed can be placed in a commercial dryer to kill bed bugs.
3. Closets should be emptied to allow treatment. Follow procedures as previously stated for items in these areas.
4. A thorough vacuuming should be done as bed bugs will lay eggs in carpets and accumulated dust under furnishings and appliances.
5. All of the above must be done prior to our technicians arrival. You must be prepared to leave the site during the treatment and not re-enter for at least two hours.

When our technician arrives, he or she will be using an IPM (integrated pest management) approach to eliminating your bed bug infestation. A typical service will include a combination of vacuuming, steaming, monitoring, and use of low impact materials which will aide the elimination of the bed bug infestation.

Residual materials (usually pyrethroids) are applied as spot treatments to cracks and crevices where bed bugs are hiding. Increased penetration of the material into cracks and crevices can be achieved if accumulated dirt and debris are first removed using a vacuum cleaner.

By using a steamer we will steam areas around the bed and box spring. This procedure will kill all stages of bed bugs that may be infesting these areas.

Monitoring will allow us to locate areas which may be more infested than others, or help us locate new bed bug infestations.

A follow-up visit will need to be performed ten days after the initial treatment. In most cases 4-6 follow visits may be needed to eliminate the bed bug infestation.

CALL US TODAY 1-800-339-8515 TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT.