

# Recognizing Bed Bugs



Bed bugs are blood-drinking insects known for inhabiting beds and other nearby crevices. They travel quickly over walls, ceilings, and floors as they hide within your home. Because they are so easy to overlook, it is important to have a pest management professional diagnose the house and then perform the proper treatments.

## IDENTIFICATION

- Size: up to ¼ inch
- Color: reddish brown

### Key Inspection Areas:

- Folds, seams and buttons on beds and furniture
- Cracks and crevices in bed frames and headboards
- Infestations can quickly expand beyond these areas into cracks and crevices throughout the unit.

### Signs of infestation include:

- Bed bug sightings
- Small dark spots on sheets
- Dark spots in seams on mattresses
- Dark spots on bed frames and headboards



## DID YOU KNOW?

The reddish brown color of bed bugs comes from the consumption of blood. Because of this, fecal spotting tends to appear as dark/black stains or smears from the digested blood that is excreted.

## BEHAVIOR

- Bed bugs come out at night and feed on human blood, frequently causing itching and swelling.
- A female can lay over 500 eggs in her lifetime, which can be up to once a year.
- If food is unavailable, bed bugs can enter a state of semi-hibernation that allows them to survive several months without feeding.
- Bed bug infestations cross all socio-economic boundaries, with infestations found in world class hotels and lower income housing.

## MOVEMENT

Bed bugs can be introduced into any environment through used bed materials or furniture, or from luggage after a stay in an infested hotel. Bed bugs can also travel between units in hotels and apartment buildings. Occasionally, you may see evidence of a bed bug infestation without actually seeing any bed bugs. This may include fecal stains that smear with a wet rag.

## NEXT STEPS

**1. It is important to have the identification of bed bugs confirmed by a pest management professional.** A physical sample of an actual bug or egg is required to be 100% certain that you have bed bugs. If it is bed bugs, you will need a thorough inspection to determine the extent of the infestation.

**2. Do not use over-the-counter pesticides.** This will merely make the infestation worse by aggravating them, which causes them to scatter into crevices like bed frames, molding and picture frames. Contacting a service professional is the best step in managing your bed bug removal.

Bed bugs are not only found in the bed, but they can be tucked away anywhere in a room. Because using home remedies pushes them in hard-to-find areas, a pest management professional is the best resource in battling bed bugs.

