

Pest Connection

Tips for a Pest-Free Home

Spring/Summer 2019



Hitchhiking Bed Bugs

Avoid Bringing Them Home with You

No matter where you travel or stay, bed bugs are everywhere. Therefore, the best way to avoid these nocturnal, blood-sucking pests is to know what to look for, where to look and how to avoid bringing them back home.

What do bed bugs look like?

The oval-shaped bugs are relatively flat, so they can easily hide in a variety of crevices in close proximity to humans. Bed bugs are typically less than ¼" long, have six legs and are brown or reddish-brown in appearance. Their unusual coloring comes from blood, which can leave brownish-black or reddish-brown stains as the blood is digested then excreted onto box springs, sheets, moldings, carpeting, furniture, clothing, etc.

Where do bed bugs come from?

While it may seem like bed bugs appear out of thin air, the truth is they are just really good hitchhikers. While this is good news for them, it is bad news for everyone else. It means they can literally be found anywhere people go. In public areas, bed bugs can be brought in by anyone. Newly introduced bed bugs tend to wander about, looking for harborage near a host. People passing through these areas can pick them up unknowingly, transporting them to a new location. Here is a list of some of the most common locations bed bugs are found:

- Government Buildings / Social Services Facilities
- Used Furniture / Thrift Shops
- Hotels
- Office Buildings
- Schools / Daycares
- Temporary Housing / Shelters

- Multi-Unit Housing / Dorms
- Hospitals / Clinics
- Public Transportation
- Nursing Homes
- Libraries / Theaters
- Laundromats

How can I get bed bugs?

There are several areas that are considered "high risk" for bed bugs. In these areas, it is important to implement an awareness program to help prevent the spread of bed bugs. Everyone involved needs to work together, including healthcare professionals, housekeeping staff, maintenance staff, patients, residents, family members, teachers, students, and school administrators. Bed bugs are less likely become an infestation when proper protocols are followed.

[Read full story inside]

Top Choice Awards Winner 2018

Batzner customers and employees agree that Batzner is their "Top Choice" for pest control in the Milwaukee area. We are proud to announce that we have been named the top pest control provider by residents of Southeast Wisconsin in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's Top Choice Awards. This is our fourth consecutive year of winning the Top Choice Award.

Readers and community members are invited to vote for their favorite business by visiting www.jsonline.com/topchoice to cast votes.

When the ballots are collected and tabulated, the top two businesses with the most amount of votes in each category are awarded a Top Choice Winner Award for first place and a Top Choice Finalist Award for second place. The Top Choice Awards recognize the best in the Milwaukee area in several categories ranging from dining and entertainment to home and professional services.



2019 Mosquito and Tick Program



Make sure mosquitoes are not part of your summer plans and be prepared with Batzner's Mosquito and Tick Program. Along with the sting and itch their bites impart, mosquitoes bring diseases to humans and pets. We care about the health and safety of you and your family. Let Batzner help keep these biting pests out of your yard all season long.

DIY or Professional Application?

In an effort to protect you and your family, you may be tempted to DIY with an over-the-counter fogger or spray. However, unless you are using a commercial-grade product, it will not offer the same long term coverage that a professionally applied product will. DIY products will only offer a temporary solution at best. Our professional treatment focuses on mosquito breeding areas, such as shrubs and shaded areas, rather than your entire yard, limiting chemical exposure to you and your family. This treatment also helps control ticks in your yard.

Karl Rowell, Batzner QA and Safety Manager explains, "We use a professional mister that releases tiny droplets, blanketing the foliage surface area more thoroughly than a DIY spray or fogger will. Our targeted technique also limits chemical exposure to people and pets by only applying it to mosquito resting areas."

Service Options

Three and Four Month Programs

Starting in June, the monthly mosquito treatment targets the existing population, while preventing reproduction. This approach is designed to start coverage before a population takes hold, and can be extended for additional months. The program also includes callbacks.

Outdoor Event Service

Just need a one-time service for a big event? Services can be customized to the venue and time. It's perfect for corporate events, weddings, graduation parties, picnics and family reunions—your guests will thank you! Call or use the form online for more information.

batzner.com/mosquito-control

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Ask the Experts

Dan Stawicki, Operations Manager



Featuring advice from our Associate Certified Entomologists

Have a question? Reach out to us on Facebook, Twitter, or at Batzner.com

Q: What are some tips for controlling and preventing fruit flies in my home?

A: Fruit flies can be found breeding in overripened fruits and vegetables, drains and garbage disposals, soda or juice bottles, trash bins, mops and rags, and other areas where there is bacteria or mold. During the warmer months of the year, it is fairly easy for these pests to fly through screen doors and small cracks that may lead to your home. Although small, fruit flies can cause serious contamination issues. If their eggs hatch on fruit or vegetables that are eaten by humans, the contaminants carried by these flies can cause an upset stomach.

In order to control the infestation of these bothersome pests, it is critical that the breeding site is found. Once the site of the flies is revealed, you should dispose of the item and sanitize the area where the flies are apparent. By eliminating the source,

these pests will no longer have a site to breed.

Prevention:

- All ripened fruit should be eaten, refrigerated, or thrown away.
- If a fruit or vegetable has a visible crack, either place in a storage container, or throw it away.
- Clean up any juice or soda spills, making sure to clean thoroughly under appliances, if needed.

Travel Tips

Bed Bug Awareness Week, June 2-8

As the summer travel season begins to warm up, bed bug activity increases exponentially.

According to PCT's 'Bugs Without Borders Survey', 97 percent of pest control professionals indicated that they have treated for bed bugs within the past year and 69 percent of professionals said that the overall bed bug service work is increasing significantly.



Meet the newest member of our bed bug canine team, Jaxx!

Here are some highly recommended tips for all travelers:

- Thoroughly inspect your room, especially behind the headboard and underneath the mattress.
- Do not unpack your belongings into the hotel dressers. It may also be a good idea to keep your luggage in the bathroom, specifically the bathtub.
- When returning home, inspect and vacuum your luggage before bringing them inside, wash all clothing (even if unworn) and dry all clothing on high heat in order to kill any possible bed bugs or eggs.
- If you encounter a bed bug issue, address the hotel manager in a calm manner and request to change rooms.

[Continued from front page]

Medical areas prone to bed bugs

- Long-term care, dialysis centers, and areas frequently visited by the same patient
- Maternity units
- Emergency departments (transport vehicles)
- Waiting rooms
- Laundromats
- Rented equipment or equipment from other facilities

Educational areas prone to bed bugs

Bed bug infestations with sustaining populations in classrooms are rare because schools are poor environments for bed bug survival and reproduction. Periodic introductions occur more often due to the increasing frequency of bed bugs in homes.

- School buses
- Nap areas
- Play areas
- Lockers / jacket & backpack storage
- Desks

Dorms and multi-unit properties prone to bed bugs

College dorms and apartment complexes are hot spots for bed bugs to spread rapidly.

- Suitcases should be fully inspected for signs of bed bugs prior to packing, especially if used for travel
- Inspect secondhand or rental furniture
- Before unpacking, inspect the mattress and additional furniture in the room, such as sofas or chairs
- Invest in a mattress encasement

Hotel areas prone to bed bugs

Hotels are just as much at risk of obtaining a bed bug problem as they are of spreading one. Bed bugs in one room can easily move to other rooms, which creates serious problems.

- Mattress
- Nightstand
- Chairs
- Sofas (especially pull-outs)



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