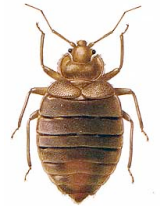


BED BUG INFORMATION & TREATMENT PREPARATION

What you need to know about bed bugs

- Bed bugs are wingless, oval, flat, mahogany-red to dark brown blood sucking insects. They can measure 3/16" long, and about half as wide.
- Bed bugs feed solely on blood. The common bed bug, *C. lectularius*, prefers to feed on humans, but may bite pets or warm blooded animals.
- Females can lay 200 – 500 eggs in their lifetime.
- Bed bugs are generally nocturnal, but can be active during daylight hours if food is scarce or infestations severe.
- Females cement eggs in cracks & crevices of mattresses, box springs, night stands, and other furniture. Eggs may also be in nearby surrounding areas such as baseboards, window sills, electrical outlets, curtains, picture frames, and more.
- Eggs are pearly-white and can be seen without magnification, especially if they're on dark surfaces.
- Bed bug excrement is essentially dried blood and is easily identified on light colored surfaces such as white sheets, pine furniture, mattresses, walls, etc.
- Newly hatched nymphs are transparent or straw colored. As they grow, they shed their skins, a process known as molting. In order for them to molt to the next stage, they must have a blood meal.



Health Significance of bed bugs

- Bed bugs feed to repletion. A typical bite may occur for 5–13 minutes. Paradoxically, most people do not feel the bite of bed bugs. Some people have severe reactions to the bites (wheals), while others may have no reaction at all.
- Bed bugs have not been shown to transmit human disease, though as many as 28 human pathogens have been discovered in the gut of the bed bug.
- Generally, the most common medical concern associated with bed bugs is secondary infections from scratching the bite lesions.
- Psychological aftermath of having bed bugs can be significant for some who feel they continue to be bitten, perhaps even after the bugs are gone.

Where bed bugs come from

- Bed bugs are typically introduced to buildings via infested items from other buildings.
- Used furniture from curbside vendors or trash containers may contain bed bugs.
- Migrant bed bugs may leave infested neighboring apartments seeking blood meals.
- Travelers may pick-up bed bugs while staying at hotels, hostels, or guest houses.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR TREATMENT – IMPORTANT!

- ✓ Preparing for bed bug treatments is a lot of work. Do not attempt to prepare on the actual day of the treatment. Successful eradication is directly correlated to the level of preparedness for each treatment. Please prepare completely.
- ✓ Strip beds, futons, and sofas of sheets, blankets, pillows, and comforters.
- ✓ Bag all clothing & bedding materials and store in plastic bags which may be placed on the floor in the middle of any room.
- ✓ Empty closets, dressers, & night stands of all contents. Be sure to remove items from shelves. Store items in plastic bags which may be left on the floor in the middle of any room.
- ✓ Remove any clutter & stored items from beneath beds.
- ✓ All food must be stored in the refrigerator or air-tight containers.
- ✓ Fish tanks must be covered with plastic and the pumps unplugged.
- ✓ All pets must be removed from the apartment.
- ✓ Generally, it is unnecessary to throw-away furniture to eliminate bed bugs. Do not throw anything away unless advised to do so by our service technicians.
- ✓ People and pets must stay out of the apartment for 4 hours following treatment. A notice will be posted on your door indicating the time you may re-enter.

After the treatment

- Carefully transport your bedding and clothing to the laundry. Carefully empty bags into washing machine and wash with appropriate laundry detergent. Dry at high temperatures for at least 30 minutes. NOTE: Fragile garments that cannot withstand machine washing & drying must be professionally laundered.
- In cases where the problem was identified early, one or two treatments may solve the problem. However, in cases where infestations are moderate – high, several follow-up treatments may be necessary.
- We recommend purchasing a mattress and boxspring cover for each bed in your home. These are available at any Walmart store. Alternatively, if you'd like us to get them for you, please let the Property Manager know or contact us directly. In either case, you are responsible for paying for these covers.
- It is strongly recommended that daily, or at a minimum, weekly vacuuming of furniture and floors in sleeping quarters be performed during the treatment period. Be sure to discard the vacuum cleaner bag, outside of the building, after each use. If you have a canister vacuum (without bags) be sure to empty it outside of the building and wash the canister with a detergent of bleach solution after each use.

About the treatment

- You have the right to know what products are used in your home as part of the bed bug treatment. Please don't hesitate to contact us at anytime for Material Safety Data Sheets and labels.
- If you have a lot of clutter in your home, it will complicate the treatment and delay results. It is strongly recommended that unnecessary items be eliminated (carefully) from your home and the building.
- Potentially infested items from your home must be discarded from the building in a manner that prevents spreading the problem elsewhere in the building.
- Follow-up treatments are generally scheduled either at 2 or 4 week intervals, and additional preparations are required.