

What are bed bugs?

Bed bugs are small insects (about the size of an apple seed) with oval-shaped bodies and no wings. They usually come out and bite at night. Bites are painless at the time of attack; in fact they bite several times over a ten minute period, resulting in meandering lines or clusters of red, itching bumps. They also feed on other warm-blooded animals such as rodents, bats, dogs, cats and birds. It is possible for anyone, anywhere to experience a bed bug infestation, but they can be prevented and controlled.

Don't assume your bites are bedbugs. Bites can be hard to identify, even for doctors. Rule out mosquitoes, fleas, mites, and biting gnats by conducting a visual inspection. It's best to collect and identify bedbugs to confirm bites. Look for the bugs themselves or their bloodstains, especially along the seams of mattresses. Further, look for dark spots of insect waste where bedbugs might crawl into hiding places on furniture, walls, and floors.

Early Detection is Crucial

If noticed early, an infestation can be controlled by treating the limited area the bugs inhabit. However, once they spread throughout a room or apartment, eradication becomes much more difficult. Unchecked or ineffectively treated, they can spread throughout a building.

Also if you have gotten furniture from a rental service, always check the seams and any creased areas for bed bugs.

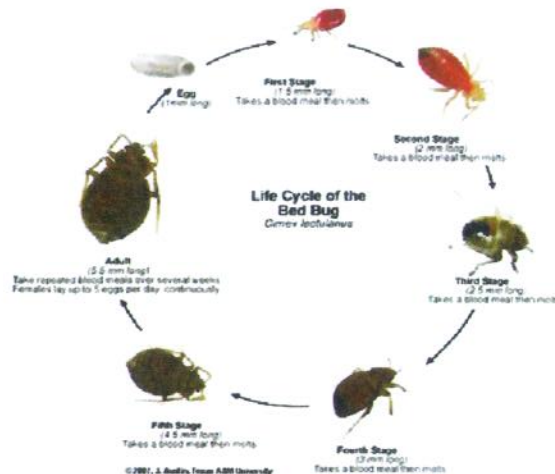
Take proper precautions and be ever vigilant about detecting and eradicating these bugs at the first sign of invasion.

Make sure that you call or come to the WHA Main office immediately at 609-729-0220 and report it.



Wildwood Housing Authority

EVERYTHING
YOU WANTED
TO KNOW
ABOUT
BED BUGS.



PREVENT

How do I stop bed bugs from entering my home?

Even the cleanest homes can get bed bugs, but regular inspection and cleaning can help you prevent an infestation. To prevent bed bugs from coming into your home you should:

- Vacuum your mattress and floor often: Be sure to remove the vacuum bag at once, and dispose of it in an outdoor container. It is best not to use vacuums with reusable bags for this purpose.
- Reduce & Clean clutter to limit hiding places for bed bugs
- Seal cracks and crevices with caulking
- Remake the bed with white sheets, if possible. This will make it easier to spot even small insects, and to see their dark waste spots much more easily. Seal mattress in a bag for bed bugs
- Carefully Inspect used furniture or clothes before buying.
- Never bring discarded bed frames, mattresses, box springs, upholstered furniture into your home.



IDENTIFY

How can I find bed bugs?

Use a flashlight look for bed bugs and their droppings. You can also use a flat object like a playing card or a blow dryer set on high heat and low fan will also work to force the bugs out of hiding spaces and cracks. Check in the seams of your mattress, inside your boxspring and along your bed frame. Also look in cracks and crevices in and around your bed and check surrounding furniture and baseboards.

What does a bed bug bite feel and look like?

Some people have no reaction at all. But for some people they can turn into itchy welts. Bedbugs tend to leave straight rows of bites. They usually go away by themselves and don't need treatment. Bedbug bites do not usually require treatment. If a secondary infection occurs (usually from scratching), apply a local antiseptic lotion or antibiotic cream or ointment. Although bed bugs and their bites are a nuisance, they are not known to spread disease in humans.



ACT

If you think you found bed bugs or suspect, call the Main office immediately and report it. You should also:

- Wash all sheets and clothing in warm-hot water; dry clean those items that cannot be washed in a regular machine on high heat for 30 minutes.
- Vacuum your mattress, bed frame, baseboards and anything else around your bed every day
- Remove unnecessary clutter
- Seal cracks in bed frames, floors, walls and between baseboards
- Tighten loose light switch covers
- Seal openings where pipes, wires or other utilities come into your home
- Do not remove or dispose of any infested furniture from your apartment. The Exterminator will let you know if is possible for the item to be saved and treated.

