

BED BUGS 101

Bed bugs are making a big comeback. They seem to come from nowhere, but they are being seen more and more in apartments, hotels, homes, shelters, dormitories and nursing homes.

They are active travelers, usually transported in luggage, boxes, clothing and furniture. Infestations are not tied to unsanitary living conditions; even world-class hotels have reported bed bug problems.

Their name comes from their tendency to live between mattresses and feed on the occupants at night.

Bed bugs do not fly or jump, but they move quickly over floors, walls, ceilings and furniture.

Bed bugs are not known to transfer any human diseases.

WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?

- Bed bugs are wingless, approximately ¼ inch in length with a flattened, oval shape and rusty brown in color.
- Younger bed bugs are smaller and often lighter in color.
- Female bed bugs can lay from 1-12 eggs a day and 3 or more generations can occur each year.
- A bed bug can live up to 18 months and survive without a blood meal for a year.
- Since bed bugs are only active at night, any daytime sightings may indicate a heavy infestation.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

www.cdc.gov/parasites/bedbugs

1-800-232-4636

Summit County Public Health

Environmental Health Division

scph.org/pest-control/bed-bugs

330-926-5600

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Statement Revised September 2018.

Spanish: Atención: La asistencia de idiomas esta disponible.

Nepali: भाषा सहायता उपलब्ध छ

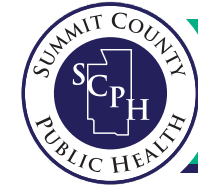


1867 West Market St.

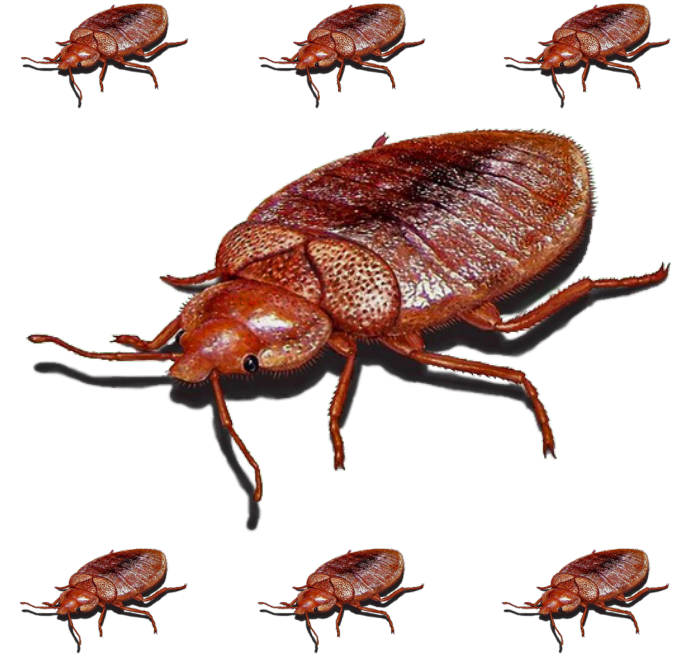
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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



BED BUGS DON'T LET THEM BITE!

330.926.5600

scph.org

How do I get **RID** of **bed bugs?**

- Complete elimination of a bed bug infestation may be difficult without a knowledgeable Pest Control Service. It may take multiple treatments to control the population.
- Reduce the amount of clutter to achieve a good treatment and eliminate hiding places.
- Vacuum mattresses, box springs, and carpets. Dispose of vacuumed contents in a sealed plastic bag immediately.
- Enclose mattress and box springs with bed bug proof zippered cover. Cover should remain in place for more than one year.
- Wash and dry bedding and garments on high heat to kill any bed bugs.
- Use bed bug interceptors under the legs of the bed and furniture to determine if bed bugs are present
- When disposing of bed bug infested materials always label them clearly "BED BUGS" so others do not take the materials and infest their homes.
- Do-it-yourself measures sometimes cause more problems than benefits.
- "Bug bombs" and foggers are not recommended for bed bug treatment.



WHERE SHOULD I LOOK?

Check for bed bugs on the seams and folds of mattresses, bed frames and head boards.

Bed bugs may also be behind baseboards, pictures, frames, windows, door casings, loosened wall paper, curtains, cracks in plaster and electrical wall plates. They can be in furniture, closets and cracks and crevices around the house.

Adult bed bugs can hide in any space as thin as a piece of paper; young bed bugs are even smaller.



HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE BED BUGS?

Usually the first sign of a bed bug infestation is the appearance of small, rusty spots on your mattress and bed linens. These are bed bug droppings and blood spots.

Bed bugs feed on any bare skin exposed while sleeping. Red, itchy welts are an indication of an infestation. Bed bug "bites" occur when the bed bug is actually drawing blood. It may take as long as fourteen days for a welt to appear from a bed bug "bite."

The victim of a bed bug should resist the urge to scratch the "bites" as this may intensify the itching and cause an infection. Some people have a reaction to bed bug "bites" and may need to seek medical assistance.

Do not bring items that are known to be infested into your home. Be sure to inspect any furniture or secondhand items that are brought into your home for bed bugs.

HOW CAN I AVOID BED BUGS?

When returning from a trip, inspect your luggage and clothes for bed bugs.

When staying at a hotel, avoid setting your luggage on the floor until you have inspected the room for bed bugs. Place luggage on the luggage rack or in the bathtub.