

Bedbugs

Pest control facts – Bed bugs



Bed bugs are bloodsucking parasites. They prefer humans but also feed on:

- chickens
- bats
- domestic animals

They feed at night or at any time if the room is dark, that is why you will usually find bedbugs in bedrooms or occasionally in the living areas where people sleep.

They live in:

- bedclothes
- mattresses
- bedsprings and frames
- soft furnishing
- cracks and crevices
- under wallpaper

Bed bug lifecycle

Females lay between 200-500 eggs in batches of 10-50, on rough surfaces such as wood or paper.

Eggs are white or whitish/yello, sticky and about 1mm long and ½ mm wide.

Eggs are laid in cracks or crevices, never on people.

A bed bugs entire life cycle can take between 5 weeks to 4 months, depending upon the temperature and availability of food.

Identifying a bed bug

- Adult bed bugs are 4mm to 8mm in length, wingless and uniformly mahogany brown colour.
- They have long well-developed walking legs with efficient tarsal claws for clinging on to the host during feeding.
- Their bodies are flattened, with well-developed antennae and small compound eyes
- After feeding, they become swollen, longer and dark red to dark brown in colour.

Bed bug bites



A bed bug bite is painless.

It's their saliva that can cause irritation, swelling and redness.

Why do I have bedbugs?

Bedbugs are very easy to transport from person to person, and place to place.

They're usually brought into the home on second hand furniture etc. (always inspect items closely and use the 'recognising a bedbug' description below,

They can also be transported from furniture or items dumped or fly tipped in the street, where any sort of close contact is made (human or animal).

Recognising a bed bug problem



Bed bugs in bedding

Because they are so small, bed bugs are hard to see.

They do leave signs that they are present on the surfaces where they rest:

- black or brown spots of dried blood
- eggs
- egg-shells
- cast skins

Typical resting areas include:

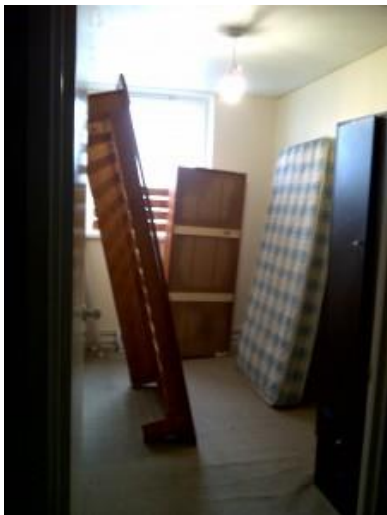
- under wallpaper
- behind picture frames
- inside cracks and crevices near to beds
- bed frames
- undersides of :
 - windows
 - door casings
 - loose mouldings

When there are many bed bugs, there is often a bad smell.

Steps you can take

- If you have a lot of bed bugs you should contact us or a pest control company to make an appointment for treatment.
- Don't try to treat this yourself unless you know what you are doing as this could lead to complications when we attempt to treat.
- Clean on a regular basis:
 - furniture
 - bedding
 - mattresses
- If you have a bed bug infestation, steam clean or throw away mattresses (mattresses must be disposed of safely to ensure that infestation of other areas do not occur).
- Repair cracks in:
 - walls
 - windows
 - doors
- Wash legs of beds in soapy water, and then coat legs in double sided sticky tape or petroleum jelly.
- Alternatively, place the legs of the bed in metal cans.
- Bed bugs cannot climb metal easily and as they cannot fly this will prevent them from being able to feed.

Before we can carry out treatment



There are steps you **must** take:

- All bedrooms need to be completely emptied of:
 - clothes
 - electrical goods
 - personal items
- Wash all bedding and keep in sealed bags/containers in an uninfected room
- Bedside tables, wardrobes and drawers may need to be emptied to allow access for treatment where a significant infestation is established
- All clothing needs to be washed on a high temperature
- Store washed clothes in sealed bags or containers in an uninfected room
- Cover any fish tanks, keep covered until treatment is dry – very important as we are using a poison in this treatment
- We only spray bedrooms and mattresses, not the whole property.
- We can't guarantee against re-infestation from outside forces or cross contamination
- An officer will carry out an assessment on the day of treatment to determine the extent of the infestation and the appropriate measures to be taken.

After we carry out treatment

There are steps you **must** take:

- Keep all children and pets out of treated rooms for a minimum of 6 hours – most important as we are using a poison in this treatment.
- Wash hands/feet if touched wet/dry treated areas, maintain this routine throughout the treatment period
- Do not consume food/drink in treated areas – most important as we are using a poison in this treatment
- Chemicals are residual up to 3 months depending on level of house cleaning. Cleaning should be avoided for up to 10 days after treatment.

The number of treatments is dependent on the level of infestation. This will be determined by the visiting pest control officer. We can't guarantee against re-infestation from outside forces, cross contamination. By signing the treatment sheet, you are agreeing that you've read and understood these requirements.