



What Are Bedbugs?



They are little, nocturnal bugs that feed on the blood of warm-blooded animals, including humans. They usually live inside of mattresses, sofas or other hidden crevices, where they have convenient access to a food source - you. They crawl out just before dawn to search for blood sources. Most people do not feel the bite until after the bedbug is already safely back in its home. They will usually bite once per week, and each female can lay five eggs per day, which will quickly become a large infestation if you do not eradicate them.

Will They Hurt Me?

Bedbugs are not usually considered a serious disease threat. However, their bites produce red, itchy welts in most people and more severe symptoms if you have an allergic reaction to them.

Who is Responsible?

Management inspected your home for bedbugs during the make ready process including high temperature steam cleaning the carpets. You are urged to inspect your home with management prior to moving in. Should bedbugs appear after you move in, you must notify management upon first observation of bedbugs, so that management can inspect adjacent homes and assist you with treatment options. You will be responsible for promptly treating your home or reimbursing for the cost of treatments.

Bedbug Hiding Places

Most common places:

- Mattresses - along seams and piping, under handles and labels
- Blankets, bed sheets and pillows
- In bed frames, head boards, box springs and under dust skirts
- Hidden in nail holes, cracks, by staples, springs and nails.
- Seams and folds of chairs, sofas or other upholstered furniture

Less common places:

- Under and along edges of wall-to-wall carpeting and padding
- Cracks, crevices or nail holes in walls, and under wood moldings
- Under loose wallpaper and seams
- In and behind picture frames and mirrors
- In clothing and clutter stored under beds, in closets and elsewhere
- Inside switch plates, electrical outlets, and clutter around sleeping areas



CATALYST
PROPERTY SOLUTIONS



**Important Things
You Should Know
About Bedbugs**

How to Get Rid of Bedbugs

Tip #1

Prepare for treatment – remove your clothes, bed linens, blankets, curtains and all other fabric from your room. Clean them thoroughly in hot water with laundry detergent or you can steam them at a very high temperature and dry in a dryer on high heat. Temperatures of 120 degrees F will immediately kill bedbugs and their eggs.

Encase your mattress, box spring, sofa and pillows. Encasements will trap bed bugs in until they die and keep new infestations out while you treat the rest of your home. Protect-A-Bed Aller-Zip bedbug mattress covers and box spring covers are the recommended choice.

Tip #2

Use Do-it-Yourself Products and Bedbug Kits. Check out online resources such as the website domyownpestcontrol.com or your local home improvement store for products like these listed below that are very affordable and easy to use.



Tip #3

Thyme and tree leaf oil work like bedbug repellents. These are temporary medicines that do not kill, but repel the bugs so that they change their direction and go elsewhere. Remember that bedbugs can live up to a year without feeding but they are still reproducing during that time.

Tip #4

The ClimbUp® insect interceptor forms a barrier between the floor and the bed. Any bedbugs approaching the bed from the floor will climb up the exterior surface and fall into the outer pitfall ring while bedbugs climbing down from bed will be found in center well.

Tip #5

Heat Treatments using a bedbug steamer are also very effective. Most steamers have tip temperatures of 220 degrees F. Bedbug steamers can treat almost any furniture piece (such as a crib), bed or clothing without the use of insecticides.

Tip #6

Call a Professional. Your management office can provide you with a list of local contractors.



How to Prevent Bedbugs

- Do not bring discarded furniture into your residence – there is a reason it was left by, or in, the dumpster
- If you receive second hand furniture, inspect it for signs of bedbugs or steam treat it before bringing into your home
- Inspect your luggage after traveling and as a precaution, dry your clothes on high heat

How Did I Get Bedbugs?

Travel

Reports of bedbugs in hotels are on the rise. Bedbugs will often crawl into your luggage and get carried back into your home, and all it takes is one to start an infestation.

Living in Close Confinements

Bedbugs have been known to travel between walls to adjacent homes, so if your neighbors have a heavy infestation, your home could also be affected.

If you have bedbugs, make sure your landlord inspects adjacent homes as it may be harder for you to permanently get rid of them until your neighbors take care of their own infestation.

Clothing

Sometimes bedbugs can get into your home by crawling on to your clothes while you are out, but this is actually pretty rare.

Used Furniture

If you buy used clothes or used furniture, there is always a possibility of bringing bedbugs in to your home. Be sure to inspect used items before purchasing to avoid bringing home an infestation.

Your Occupation

If you regularly go into other people's homes, you could easily bring bedbugs in to your own home. If you're a cable technician, a plumber, or anyone who goes into other people's houses, you're at risk.

Guests

If someone stays at your house, they could bring bedbugs with them. Because dorm rooms are prone to infestation, Students visiting for the holidays may bring bedbugs home.