



Bed Bugs | Pest File

KNOW THE FACTS

After many years of virtual eradication from the hospitality industry, the bed bug is back and showing up in even the most exclusive hotels and resorts. Though these blood-feeding insects aren't known to spread disease, their bites can cause severe reactions - both physically and from a public relations standpoint.

That's why more and more hotels are becoming as proactive as possible when it comes to identifying bed bug infestations, and ensuring they are dealt with as quickly and efficiently as possible.

WHAT ARE BED BUGS?

- Bed bugs are blood-feeding parasites.
- They are a light tan color, but turn dark-reddish brown once they have fed on blood. They can survive for several months between blood meals.
- The adult bed bug is about 5-7mm (1/4 inch) long and flattened. Once engorged with blood, it swells in size.
- Bed bugs can easily be seen with the naked eye, but typically stay hidden in the day.
- They can be found in hotel rooms any time of year, and will often go unnoticed until the population size is large.

WHERE DO BED BUGS COME FROM?

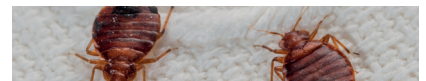
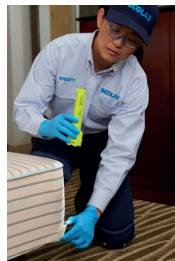
- Bed bugs can't fly. They crawl or are carried from place to place.
- Bed bugs and their nymphs are known to hitchhike in suitcases, clothing or used furniture.
- The offspring of one pregnant female bed bug can quickly infest a room and other rooms nearby.
- Bed bugs live in bed frames, headboards, and bedside furniture. Also behind pictures, switch plates and skirting boards, plus under mattress seams, box springs and within other cracks and crevices.

WHAT DO BED BUGS DO?

- Bed bugs usually feed at night and spend the day hidden.
- They feed about once a week, usually for several minutes on a sleeper's exposed skin.
- Bites are generally painless.
- Some people do not react to bites, but others may develop a red bump with an itchy pale white center.
- Bed bugs can survive 6-12 months without feeding.



Actual size = 5-7mm long



DISEASE GUIDE

Although bed bugs consume blood like other human parasites, there has been no evidence that they spread diseases.

CONTACT US:
www.ecolab.com

1 Ecolab Place,
St. Paul, MN 55102

USA: 1.800.325.1671
CANADA: 1.800.352.5326

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