

BEDBUGS

The United States is seeing a growing number of bedbug cases in all types of areas, such as department stores, theaters, offices, hotels, homes, and college residence halls.

Important facts to remember about bedbugs:

- Bedbugs are not known to transmit disease.
- Bedbugs are treatable, but require assistance from a pest control company, as well as cooperation from the residents.
- It is not possible to identify a bedbug infestation by simply looking at a bite.
- It is very helpful to obtain a sample of the insect to confirm presence of bedbugs.
- If you have a rash/bites, there may be other possible causes, such as dry skin or other insect bite.

If you suspect you may have bedbugs, you should report it to your hall office or Resident Director immediately. If possible, obtain a sample and bring it to the Central Office. Please do not stay in a friend's room or host guests until the situation is investigated. While it may be tempting, it will potentially spread the problem.

What will happen once I report possible bedbugs?

Residence Life will contact the exterminator to perform an assessment of your room/suite/apartment. The exterminator should arrive to assess within 24-36 hours.

Questions that you may be asked:

- Why do you suspect that you have bedbugs?
- How long have you suspected this problem?
- Have you seen any bugs?
- Have you been bitten? If so, where?
- Does your roommate(s) have any bites or irritation?
- Do you know anyone who has bedbugs.
- Have you had any guests recently? Do you know where they were before they visited you?
- Have you recently brought anything new into your room? Where did you get it?
- Do you have any guests who are scheduled to visit your room?

If bedbugs are confirmed, then the following steps will need to be taken:

Once it has been determined that bedbugs are present, each resident should launder enough clothes for three days. They should be laundered in hot water and dried at the hottest dryer setting. After a student launders his/her clothes, the clothes he/she are wearing should be laundered as well. Any remaining clothing that can be laundered should be bagged up in thick plastic bags (available in the hall office) and labeled.

Students will be provided with a bedbug treatment preparation check list. Residents will need to vacate their room on the day of treatment for several hours. Each resident needs to confirm that his/her living unit is ready for treatment via email to the RD. They will then have 24 hours from the confirmation of bedbugs to prepare their room/apartment for the exterminator.



http://www.

Where can I find more information about bedbugs?

The Internet is a great resource for learning more about bedbugs. However, there is a great deal of information out there that is unhelpful or inaccurate. The following websites are a good starting point to learn more:

University of Kentucky Department of Entomology

www.uky.edu/Ag/Entomology/entfacts/struct/ef636.htm

Harvard University Bedbug Information

www.hsph.harvard.edu/bedbugs/



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The Bedbug Booklet

Be in the Know Before They "Bug" You

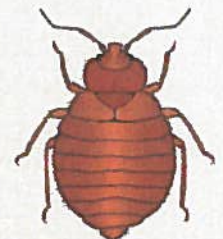


What is a bedbug?

Bedbugs are insects. They are oval-shaped bugs that are wingless and do not fly.

What do bedbugs look like?

They have a flat body and adults are roughly the same size as a lentil.



When are bedbugs active?

Bedbugs are nocturnal. They are primarily active at night.



Look inside
to see more facts
about bedbugs, and
how to prevent them!

Where do bedbugs live?

Bedbugs do not only live in beds! They can live in very tiny spaces such as baseboards, electrical outlets, ceiling fans, and underneath or inside electronics. Other harborages may include:

- In seams of mattresses
- Behind bed headboards and bed frames
- Between cracks and crevices of walls and floor moldings
- Where carpeting adjoins walls
- In furniture and dresser drawers
- In seams of curtains that touch the floor

But I thought bedbugs happened only to dirty people?!

This is a common misconception. Bedbugs do not have a preference of sanitary conditions. However, to control bedbugs it is helpful to reduce their harborages, which may mean reducing clutter.

How are bedbugs transmitted?

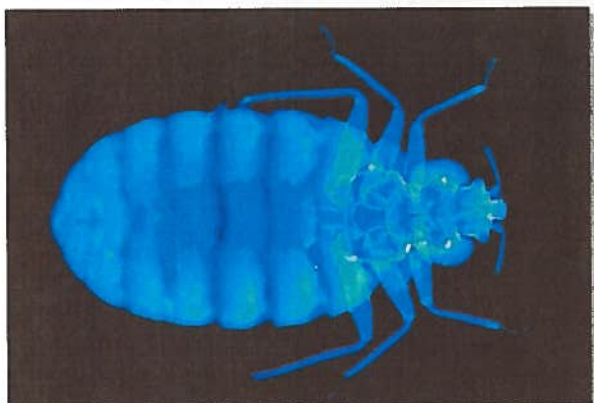
Bedbugs move from place to place by “hitchhiking” in or on items such as luggage, backpacks and furniture. It is unusual and unlikely to transmit bedbugs from person to person.

How do I know if I have bedbugs?

Since bedbugs are hard to spot because they are small and nocturnal, often the first sign of them is bites. These bites can come from many sources besides bedbugs, so if you suspect that bedbugs are present, it is important to investigate.

Can I get a disease from bedbugs?

Bedbugs are not known to transmit diseases.



How do I get rid of bedbugs?

Standard consumer pest sprays are not helpful for managing bedbugs so it is highly recommended that you partner with a pest control professional who is experienced. Or, if you live on campus, get the residence life department involved immediately.

- Begin by carefully inspecting your residence for places that bedbugs can hide
- Eliminate as many bedbug-friendly hiding places as possible
- Wash and dry all washable items and treat non-washable items with heat, and thoroughly inspect them
- If you are getting rid of any potentially infested items be sure to label them “contaminated” so that no one picks them up from the trash

How do I find a reputable exterminator?

- Ask for references from other customers who have had bedbugs
- Talk specifically about how they treat bedbugs
- Obtain several bids so that you are sure you are getting a fair price
- Check with the local board of health to determine if there is any information on companies in your area
- Ask how many treatments will be required
- Be sure to talk about how the treatments will affect your family and pets (will you need to vacate your home and for how long)

* Note: If you live on campus, talk with the residence life department for assistance with this step.

How can I prevent bedbugs from entering my residence?

- Educate yourself about bedbugs
- Only purchase furniture from reputable vendors. Some vendors remarket used furniture as new.
- Inspect furniture before it is brought into your residence/building
- Do not bring furniture or other items into your residence that you find on the street
- If you are exposed to bedbugs outside your residence, clean and inspect everything that has been exposed before bringing it into your space
- If you suspect bedbugs, act quickly to determine if they are present so you can respond promptly

Don't be ashamed or embarrassed to discuss bedbugs. They are not an indicator of how clean/unclean you are. It's better to get the proper people involved instead of ignoring potential bedbug outbreaks. They only get worse.

BEDBUG TREATMENT PREPARATION

Building and room number _____

Before arrival of the service technician

1. Clear out all closets, wash all clothing, and sock in hot water. Dry on hot setting, and tightly seal in plastic bags (provided by hall office).
2. Clear out all dresser drawers. Wash clothing in soap and hot water, dry, and tightly seal in plastic bags (provided by hall office).
3. Strip beds of all bed linen, and wash in soap and hot water. Dry and place in tightly sealed plastic bags (provided by hall office).
4. Move furniture away from the wall, approximately 18 to 20 inches. Vacuum behind thoroughly. (University custodians will assist if residents request assistance.)
5. Vacuum bed frames and all crevices to remove all lint.
6. Vacuum all baseboards, moldings, walls, windows, picture frames and rugs.
7. Remove the vacuum bag, place it in a plastic bag, and discard in an outdoor garbage facility.

During service

All residents must vacate during treatment, and may return two hours after service. If pregnant or have asthma or any other respiratory condition, vacate for 24 hours. Your Resident Director will find you temporary accommodations, as needed.

Note: This process will take 2 to 3 weeks from the first treatment until final inspection by the pest control company.

FAQ'S – Bedbugs

- What do bedbugs look like?
See attachment.
- How long after being bitten will I notice the bites?
Bites can be noticeable as soon as the next day or up to 14 days after.
- Can I treat for bedbugs myself?
No. A pest control expert must perform the treatment and apply the proper chemicals.
- Are the chemicals safe?
Yes, as long as the residents follow all precautionary measure provided.
- Will they treat the entire suite or just my bedroom?
Only the affected bedroom and common areas will be treated.
- Why do I have to take posters off the wall, remove clothes, and clear under the bed?
These are common hiding areas for bedbugs. To properly treat, these areas must be accessed, free of clutter, and clothing must be laundered.
- Should I treat my car, my suitcase, or kitchen?
These areas typically are not treated; however, individual items can be bagged and then laundered.
- Why can't I move to a new room?
Bedbugs must be rated at the source. Moving to another room will only spread the problem.
- When will I be able to get back into my room?
After treatment, residents can re-occupy the room after two hours.