

Notice: Bedbug Cases on the Rise in the United States

From the Eufaula Housing Authority

Despite their name, **bed bugs** do not only live in beds. They can hitch a ride on passengers' belongings and infest planes, trains, subways, buses, taxis and ships. Any residences with large numbers of occupants, such as hotels, motels, hospitals and other health care facilities, apartments, rooming houses, college dormitories and camp cabins, are prone to infestations. Bed bugs can spread through an entire building as they move from room to room and floor to floor.

Caution!

The following telltale signs will help you recognize bed bugs and protect yourself, your surroundings and your belongings.

Know what a bed bug looks like. The reddish-brown bug is wingless and six-legged. The body of a bed bug is flat, oval and measures approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long. When the parasite has fed off the blood of a human or animal, the body appears larger and darker. Newly hatched nymphs are straw-colored and are only the size of a pinhead.

Although bed bugs are generally found on or near the bed, most insects found there are not bed bugs. Before beginning pest control efforts to rid a home of bed bugs, confirm the identity of the pest.

Know how bed bugs are able to get into your home. Bed bugs enter a home through many possible ways, the most common being **hitching a ride on your luggage, computer, clothing or other belongings after you have stayed somewhere else**, or traveled where bed bugs are present, including on public transportation. **Moving time is another possible way to get into a new home, as they catch a ride in boxes.**

Don't pick up mattresses or other furniture from the road side, other apartments or dump sites.

Know the most likely places where bed bugs can be found once they get into your home. Bed bugs are more likely to be found in buildings where many occupants sleep or where there is frequent turnover, such as a hotel or college dormitory. **They tend to live where people sleep** more than any other part of the home. **They love hiding out in the bed frame, mattress, and box spring.** Given their flattened body shape, bed bugs hide out in cracks and crevices within a room, the furniture, and other objects. **Bed bugs can wander from apartment to apartment** using the voids between walls and wire/pipe holes. **Bed bugs like warmth.** They are known to enter laptops, net books, and your computer's DSL ports, which are also very portable objects that you might inadvertently carry around to other rooms and homes! *Occasionally, bats and birds introduce bed bugs.*

IF YOU SUSPECT BEDBUGS?

- **Consider bed bugs** if any member of the household is complaining of being bitten during the night.
- **Check for other signs of bed bugs.** Fecal staining (dark brown or reddish spots) can be seen by the naked eye on bedding, the mattress, and even the walls near the bed.
- **Notify your Property Manager as soon as possible** to set up an inspection if you believe you have bedbugs. **Let's keep our apartments clean!**

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