

BEDBUG FACT SHEET

IDENTIFICATION:

WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?

ADULT SIZE:	¼ to 3/8" (4 to 5 mm) long
COLOUR:	Reddish-brown or brown
BODY:	Flat, oval shaped, no wings
EGGS:	Bedbug eggs are white and about the size of a pinhead



WHERE DO THEY LAY EGGS?

In cracks and crevices in the floor, upholstered furniture or beds; when infestations are severe, bedbugs will be found behind wall hangings, picture frames and under carpets.

WHAT DO THEY EAT?

Bedbugs feed primarily on human blood, but will also feed on other mammals if humans are not present. Bedbugs are most active in warmer areas, coming out at night to feed and hiding in cracks and crevices during the day.

WHAT DAMAGE CAN THEY DO?

Bedbug bites are painless but can cause welts and irritation. A small, hard, swollen white welt may develop at the site of each bite. This is accompanied by severe itching that lasts from several hours to days.

Rows of three or so welts on exposed skin are characteristic signs of bedbugs. Bedbugs are not known to spread disease. Welts do not have a red spot in the center, such as characteristic of flea bites.

PREVENTION:

- **Do not bring infested items into your home. It is important to carefully inspect clothing or baggage prior to entering your home. Also inspect second hand beds, bedding and furniture. These items are a frequent source of bed bugs and should be avoided.**
- Clean furnishings, laundry and dry bedding and clothes on hot settings.
- Eliminating clutter helps reduce the hiding spots available for bedbugs.
- Do not take part in used clothing exchanges.

WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT THEM?

Bedbugs are extremely difficult to eradicate, but a critical first step is to correctly identify the blood-feeding pest as this determines what type of treatment should be used.

If you suspect an infestation, you should notify your caretaker immediately, he will be able to arrange a pest control assessment, to determine the required treatment.

INSPECTION:

A thorough inspection of the premises to locate bedbugs and their living areas is necessary so that cleaning efforts and insecticide treatments can be focused. Inspection efforts should focus on mattresses, box springs, bed frames, as well as any cracks or crevices that bugs may hide in. Other sites include interior door jambs, floor cracks, baseboards, furniture, pictures, wall hangings and drapery pleats.

BEDBUG FACT SHEET

TREATMENT:

Do not use store bought remedies such as Raid etc., these products tend to repel the bedbugs causing them to go into wall voids and transfer to other suites thus spreading the problem. Professional pesticide advice and application are required in these cases.

Preparation of the unit is necessary and may include vacuuming the mattresses and entire premises, laundering bedding and clothing in hot water as well as professionally applied pesticides.

Precautionary measures such as bagging treated laundry prior to pesticide application, encasing mattresses and box springs with mite covers and properly disposing of used vacuum bags. This is done by immediately placing the vacuum cleaner bag inside a plastic bag, sealing tightly and promptly discarding of the bag in an outdoor container.

Again, if you suspect that you have a bedbug problem please notify your caretaker as soon as pests are noticed. The caretaker will provide more information and assist with arrangements for pest identification and appropriate treatment recommendations.