



Bed Bugs



General

- Adult bed bugs are approximately ¼" long and range in color from nearly white or tan, to brown to dark brown or even burnt orange.
- Bed bugs seek shelter in dark cracks and crevices.
- Bed bugs feed on blood of warm-blooded animals.
- Bed bugs can live 6 to 18 months without feeding.

How To Prevent

- **Do not** bring used furniture into your home from unreliable sources.
- Check motel rooms for bed bugs before bringing luggage into the room.
- Look for bedbugs on the mattress and behind the headboard (In many motels the headboard is attached to the wall but can be removed).
- Never unpack your luggage on the motel bed.
- Store your luggage on a luggage rack when staying at a motel.
- After returning home from traveling **do not** unpack your luggage in your bedroom.
- Put unpacked clothing in the dryer for at least 20 minutes.
- Place luggage in a plastic bag and subject it to a temperature of 120° F or greater for at least 20 minutes (Inside the trunk of a car in the summer works well).

Treatment Options

- Before you conclude that you have a bed bug issue you should find at least one live bona fide bed bug to confirm there is an infestation that requires treatment.
- Heat treatments are the most effective treatment for bed bugs.
- Bed bugs and their eggs will be destroyed by heating their environment to 120° F for 20 minutes.
- Vacuuming, steam, and diatomaceous earth are additional treatment options. However, heat is the most effective.