



BED BUGS

PREVENTION, DETECTION AND CONTROL

Bed bugs are parasites that seek out sleeping people or animals for a blood meal. After feeding, they hide. It is challenging, but not impossible, to prevent, detect and control bed bugs due to their small size and ability to squeeze into cracks and crevices, where they are often unnoticed.

***Day-to-Day Prevention**

- ▶ **Bed bugs are excellent hitchhikers, so be extra careful when traveling**
- ▶ **Change and wash bedding regularly**
- ▶ **DO NOT bring second-hand furniture, bedding or clothing into your home unless you have thoroughly inspected the items first.**
- ▶ **Reduce clutter**

***Where do Bed Bugs Hide?**

- ▶ **Mattresses, box springs, bed frames and headboards (along seams and piping, under handles and label).**
- ▶ **Under the thin dust cloth on bottom of box spring**
- ▶ **Seams & fabric folds in curtains and under furniture, including chairs & sofas.**
- ▶ **In & behind picture frames & mirrors.**
- ▶ **Clothing and clutter stored in closets, under beds & elsewhere**
- ▶ **Inside switch plates, electrical outlets, clocks, computers, phones, televisions and smoke detectors**
- ▶ **On & in recently used luggage, backpacks and bags**

***Signs of Bed Bugs**

- ▶ **Small, whitish shed skins and rusty spots on bed linens which are droppings & blood stains from crushed bugs.**
- ▶ **Live bed bugs of any size**
- ▶ **Eggs & casings among droppings or in crevices where adults live.**
- ▶ **An offensive, sweet, musty, odor from the bed bugs when infestations are severe.**
- ▶ **You may have red, itchy welts or rashes from bites; however, bite marks are not a reliable indication of a bed bug infestation.**

IMPORTANT: If you suspect you have bed bugs, please call the office to schedule an inspection.