

## Bed Bugs

After 30 years of relatively 'bed bug free' living we are now facing a resurgence. Bed bugs are rapidly becoming one of the most common problems today. A bed bug looks somewhat like a 'tick'. It is small, oval shaped, brown in color (reddish after feeding), and wingless.



**Feeding:** The bed bug is a parasite that feeds on blood. Most activity occurs at night in areas where people sleep or rest for long periods of time.

**Evidence:** Bites will be present and may often be mistaken for other insect bites. Some people are more sensitive to the bite and may break out in a rash while others may not notice the bites.

Bed bugs will sometimes excrete while they are feeding. Dark blood spots on sheets and bedding may indicate bed bug feeding.

Bedbugs will also molt and shed cast skins which look like empty shells of bugs after feeding. In bedrooms, look particularly around box springs, mattresses, bed frames, tufts, folds, and buttons on mattresses, furniture, such as desks and chairs, behind wall paper, clocks and pictures, cracks in wood floors, and under the edge of carpet.

**Control:** Bed bug control will be a lengthy process so you will need to be patient and willing to work *with* us. These parasites are extremely difficult to eliminate once they have taken up residence. After mating the females lay eggs in cracks and crevices. A single bed bug can lay up to 250 eggs in her lifetime. It takes only 6 - 10 days for the new bed bug nymphs to hatch and search for their first blood meal.

**Prevention:** Take care when traveling and staying in hotels. Even the 5-star luxury hotels are vulnerable to this problem. Search luggage and clothing before returning to storage in your home.

When we eliminate your bed bug problem you must be diligent to prevent reintroduction. We will provide you with details to help you prevent a recurrence.