

Kansas Department of
Agriculture

Bed Bug Control

*Have you seen
me?*



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I bring bed bugs home on my shoes?

R: Unlikely, bed bugs are active at night, during the day they are hiding in cracks & crevices. Bed bugs are more likely to be spread via pillows, mattresses, bed linen & bedroom furniture.

Q: What should I do if I have a complaint of bed bugs in my lodging establishment?

R: The room should be inspected thoroughly for bed bugs. If present, the room should be closed off and a licensed pest control operator should be contacted. Finally, the presence of bed bugs should be reported to the KDA at (785) 296-5600.

Q: How can I determine if insect bites are caused by bed bugs?

R: Itchy bites can be caused by mites, mosquitoes, fleas, and lice. A physician should be consulted.

Q: How do you kill bed bug eggs?

R: Most insect eggs are safe inside a shell or chorion which protects them from insecticides. Bed bug eggs hatch in about 1-3 weeks. A follow up inspection should be conducted in about a month to see if a presence still exists.

If you have further questions, contact Kansas Department of Agriculture (785) 296-5600.


KANSAS.GOV



Division of Food Safety and Lodging
109 SW 9th, 3rd Floor
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Phone: (785) 296-5600
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BED BUG INFORMATION



Bed bugs are found all over the world and are constantly being dispersed via used furniture, luggage and bedding . During the last decade, there has been a significant increase in the number of bed bug infestations reported in homes, hotels, apartments and cruise ships. Since 2005, there has been an increase in bed bugs reported in lodging establishments in Kansas. The challenge is to correctly identify bed bugs, prevent their spread, and eliminate bed bugs from lodging facilities.

How to Identify Bed Bugs

- Immature bed bugs are light yellow or tan in color.
- Adults are brown or reddish brown.
- Adults are 1/8th of an inch in size and can be seen by the naked eye.
- Bed bugs are wingless, oval and flattened in appearance and crawl at a steady rate.

Bed Bug Biology and Behavior

- Bed bugs are active mainly at night. During the day-time, they prefer to hide close to where they sleep. Their flattened bodies enable them to fit into tiny crevices—especially those associated with mattresses, box springs, bed frames, and headboards. Characteristically these areas are marked by dark spotting and staining, which is dried excrement of the bugs.



- Bed bugs usually bite people at night while they are sleeping. They feed by piercing the skin with an elongated beak through which they withdraw blood. Symptoms thereafter vary with the individual. Many people develop an itchy red welt or localized swelling, which sometimes appears a day or so after the bite. Bed bugs also are suspect if you wake up with itchy bites you did not have when you went to sleep. Conversely, it is important to recognize that not **all** bites or bite-like reactions are due to bed bugs. Confirmation requires finding and identifying the bugs themselves, which often requires the help of a professional.
- A common concern with bed bugs is whether they transmit diseases. Although bed bugs can harbor pathogens in their bodies, transmission to humans is highly unlikely. Therefore, they are not considered a serious health threat. Their medical significance is mainly limited to the itching and inflammation from their bites.



Controlling Infestations

- Bed bugs are challenging pests to control. They hide in tiny places, requiring thorough inspections and treatments. In most cases, it will be necessary to enlist the services of a professional pest control firm. In some cases, infested mattresses and box springs will need to be discarded. Since bed bugs can disperse throughout a building, it also may be necessary to inspect adjoining rooms .

Inspection Areas

- In hotels and motels, the area behind the headboard is often the first place that the bugs become established. Mattresses, upholstered chairs and sofas should be checked carefully, including seams, tufts, skirts, and crevices. Nightstands and dressers should be emptied and examined inside and out, then tipped over to inspect the woodwork underneath. Other common places to find bed bugs include: along and under the edge of wall-to-wall carpeting; cracks in wood molding; ceiling-wall junctures, behind wall-mounts, picture frames; and under loose wallpaper.

The challenge is to find and treat all places where bugs and eggs may be present. Bed bugs tend to congregate in certain areas, but it is common to find an individual or some eggs scattered throughout a room.

Persistence and a bright flashlight are requisites for success.



Nymph
Bed Bug



Mature
Bed Bug

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