

Mosquito & Vector Control



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Don't Let the Bedbugs Bite!

Bed bugs (parasitic insects that feed on blood from humans) are unfortunately on the rise throughout the United States, including here in San Bernardino County. The County of San Bernardino, Department of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health Services – Mosquito and Vector Control Program has been tracking bed bug complaints over the past several years, and complaints are steadily rising.

If you answer yes to any of the following questions, you could be at risk of getting bed bugs and bringing them into your home. Have you ever:

- Had guests spend the night?
- Stayed in a hotel?
- Been to an airport or flown on a plane?
- Had a child in daycare, school or camp?
- Hosted a slumber party?
- Been to a movie theater?
- Had furniture or a mattress delivered?
- Shopped at a thrift store or garage sale?



Make sure you don't get bed bugs! Whenever you are staying in a hotel, peel back the sheet covers and do a thorough check of the entire mattress and around the headboard, baseboard, etc. Bed bugs are small and very good at hiding, so you must look closely to see if there is an infestation. Don't put your clothing into the dressers / bureaus provided, as this increases your risk of getting bed bugs. If the hotel room has a musty smell, this is a tell-tale sign of a possible infestation. Check out the Centers for Disease Control Bed Bugs Frequently Asked Questions page at <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/bedbugs/faqs.html> for more information on what bed bugs are, the signs and symptoms of a bed bug infestation, and how to know if you've been bitten by a bed bug.

Winterize Your Home from Vector Infestations

It is important for the health of your family and pets to maintain a vector-free living environment. A vector is any animal that can transmit disease to humans. Examples of vectors are mosquitoes, rodents, fleas and ticks. If infected, these vectors can transmit Hantavirus, Plague, West Nile Virus, or Lyme disease to humans and other diseases to humans and other animals.

During the wintertime, vectors climb, claw and gnaw to find an entry way into your home. This can cause structural damage to roofs, siding, and basements. Rats and squirrels seek warmer climates for building nests. Rodents work at night to gather food and often gnaw on electrical wires, possibly causing home fires.

Signs of vector infestations often go unnoticed until it's too late. Below are some simple tips for preventing vector infestations in your home.

Outdoor Rodent Control Tips:

- Keep your branches and bushes trimmed back away from the house
- Fruit that has fallen from fruit trees should be cleared from the yard
- Check for leaking outdoor faucets and pipes
- Don't leave pet water bowls or food bowls outside
- Always keep doors closed – rodents are quick!
- Store firewood away from the home
- Empty garbage cans and keep lids closed

Indoor Rodent Control Tips:

- Seal all entryways, cracks, and holes in siding, doors, window screens, and areas around pipes
- Practice good sanitation by cleaning up crumbs and spills
- Never leave glasses of water or pet food/water bowls out at night
- Store dry food in sealed containers
- Clean under counter-top appliances and large kitchen appliances



For more information, please contact us at 800-442-2283 or visit our website at www.sbcounty.gov/dehs.

Stay Connected to DEHS with Social Media

Follow our social media sites to get the latest news on food safety and foodborne illness prevention, mosquito and vector control, pool safety and drowning prevention, and more!

Environmental Health Today



Salud Ambiental Para Hoy



If you have any questions or comments, please contact Scott Stanley, Health Education Specialist II at 800-442-2283 or Scott.Stanley@dph.sbcounty.gov.

We appreciate the effort you make to protect the public's health in our County.