

The following information was created to assist owners and operators of hotels, motels, camps, and bed and breakfasts on how to eliminate bed bugs, avoid spreading the infestation, and provide useful information to guests.

Suggested Procedures for Owners/Operators in Case of Bed Bug Infestation

- Develop a written procedure for guests to report complaints to management and take the appropriate action to eliminate the infestation and prevent the spread of existing bed bugs. The procedure should include a plan for rapid response and provide for immediate referral to a licensed pest control company.
- Though bed bugs are not regarded as disease carriers, assist guests in seeking medical attention if requested.
- Whenever possible, relocate guests to an alternative room.
 - The alternative room should not be located immediately adjacent to the infested room.
 - It should be inspected for signs of infestation before moving the guest.
 - Once the guest leaves the alternative room, it should be re-inspected to look for bed bugs that may have come from the original room.
- Instruct the guest on how to minimize the spread of the bed bugs.
 - Refer them to the back side of this flyer if they have questions about bed bugs and how to prevent the spread of bed bugs to the alternative room or back to their residence.
- Notify all adjacent units of the bed bug infestation and ask them to prepare for inspection and possible treatment of their room.
- Instruct the licensed pest control technician to inspect the rooms adjacent to the room of the initial infestation being reported as well as any room that will be used for relocation.
- Bed bug infested items should remain in the room until after the room has been treated.
 - All items needed to be discarded should be double bagged and sealed.
 - Consult with a licensed pest control technician to determine if the items should be treated before disposal.



- Owners/Operators should replace all torn mattress and box springs.
 - Do not purchase used beds to replace the infested beds. Used mattresses may be infested too.
- Wooden bed frames should be replaced with metal bed frames when possible.

Guest Information

What are bed bugs and what do they look like?

- They are insects that feed mostly at night on the blood of humans, other mammals, and birds.
 - About a quarter inch long and an eighth of an inch wide.
 - Flat brown body with 6 legs and no wings. (Round and red after feeding).

How do I recognize the signs of a bed bug infestation?

- Itchy welts on the skin or other reactions to the bites, although some people show no reaction.
Note: Bed bugs are not considered to be disease carriers.
- Blood spots on mattress and bed sheets.
- Brown or black spots on the mattress or bed sheets from the bed bug droppings.
- Distinctive almond-like odor.
- Live bugs can be found in the bed mattress folds, box springs and frame.

When and where should I look to find them?

- Inspect any room you are going to stay in prior to unloading your personal items.
- In early infestations they don't travel far from the host. They are found in the surfaces of the bed.
- In moderate infestations they spread inside the bed and bed frame.
- In severe infestations they are harder to find or eliminate and may be found in hard to reach areas including flooring, wall spaces, ceilings, beds, and furniture.

How do bed bugs spread from place to place?

- Bed bugs travel from infested areas to non-infested areas such as clothing, luggage, furniture, bedding or laundry. They also travel through water pipes, wall spaces, and air ducts.
- Bed bugs are able to survive many months without feeding which increases their chances of surviving long periods of storage and transportation.

What do I do if I spot bed bugs?

- Report the infestation to management.
- Follow directions given to you by a licensed pest control service that may be hired to eliminate the bed bugs.
- Leave all items in the room until after treatment, if possible.
- If items must be removed prior to treatment, please follow the precautions below to prevent the spread of bed bugs.

How do I keep bed bugs from traveling with me?

- Seal all personal items in a plastic bag to avoid spreading the infestation to other rooms or houses.
- Only open the bags when washing and immediately reseal them to prevent the escape of bed bugs.
- Throw away the bags that held your items after they have been resealed.
- Do not bring the laundry inside your house until it has been washed with hot water and dried on the highest heat.
- Items that cannot be laundered like personal hygiene items and luggage should be sealed in bags and inspected prior to use or storage. Only remove these items once you are sure bed bugs are not hiding inside of them.
- All other trash, clutter and debris should be placed into sealed plastic bags and marked as trash. These items should remain in the room.