

## BED BUGS

### What are bed bugs?

They are parasitic insects that feed mostly at night on the blood of humans, other mammals, poultry and birds.

- Female lays up to 250 eggs.
- About 1/4 - 3/8 inch long and 1/8 inch wide.
- Flat brown body with 6 legs and no wings. (Round and red after feeding)
- Also known as red coats, chinchies, or mahogany flats.

### How do I know if I have bed bugs?

- Itchy welts on the skin or other reactions to the bites, although some people show no reaction. Note: Bed bugs are not regarded as disease carriers.
- Live bugs in the bed mattress folds, box spring coils and frame.
- Blood spots on mattress and bed sheets.
- Brown or black excrement spots on mattress and bed sheets.
- Distinctive almond-like odor.



### Where should I look to find them?

- In early infestations they don't travel far from the host. They are found in the tufts, seams and folds of mattresses.
- In moderate infestations they spread to box springs and cracks and crevices of bed frames.
- In severe infestations they are found in cracks of floorboards, behind wallpaper, window and door casings, moldings, cracks in plaster and partitions, in picture frames, in couches, stuffed chairs, clothing and even seams of curtains; wherever a dark crack or crevice exists.

### How do bed bugs bite?

- Bed bugs use their sharp beaks to pierce the skin of a host and inject their salivary fluid.
- The injected salivary fluid may cause the skin to become irritated and inflamed.
- A white welt appears at the bite site and may itch. Scratching the welts can lead to their becoming infected.

### How do bed bugs get into my home?

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

### How do I get rid of bed bugs?

- Seal all sheets, blankets and pillow cases in a plastic bag before removing them from the room to avoid spreading the infestation to other areas.
- Wash all bedding with hot water and dry on the hottest setting.
- Treat mattresses with a light mist of bed bug-specific insecticide on seams, folds, buttons and torn areas. Allow the mattress to dry before placing bed sheets.
- Do not spray linen.
- Do not treat infant's mattress or bedding.
- Vacuum cracks and crevices and other hiding spaces in walls, floors and furniture where adult bed bugs or eggs can be found.
- Eggs are not affected by insecticides, so repeat the insecticide application 2-3 times (every 10 days) to remove post-treatment hatchlings.
- A licensed pest control company is recommended for insecticide applications.

