

Bed Bug Fact Sheet



Adult bed bugs are just under a 1/4" long and relatively flat. Their appearance is often compared to an apple seed. They feed on blood, mostly from humans, but other warm blooded animals provide feeding opportunities as well. They can live for up to one year without needing to feed. Most who are bitten by bed bugs will experience itchy, swollen areas on their skin. Bed bugs are nocturnal and like to hide in cracks and crevices. While most often found in and around beds, they are frequently found in other areas including offices, schools, medical facilities, movie theaters, and airplanes.

A few things to know about these pests:

- 95% of pest professionals reported treating bed bugs over the past year; that is up from fewer than 25% of professionals in 2000.
- Bed bugs have been identified as the SINGLE most difficult pest to treat by the pest control industry.
- Bed bugs have been found in every state in America and in all types of settings: rural, suburban, and metropolitan.
- 66% of Americans are concerned about getting bed bugs.
- 1 in 5 Americans has come into contact with bed bugs either directly or indirectly because of a friend or family member's experiences.
- 12% of Americans reported changing a travel behavior because of concerns about bed bugs.
- The average cost for treating a home for bed bugs is between several hundred and a few thousand dollars.
- Bed bugs can ingest seven times their own weight in blood, which would be the equivalent of an average-sized male drinking 120 gallons of liquid.
- Complete information on bed bugs, tips to minimize the likelihood of infestations, and control guidance can be found on www.pestworld.org.