

## Bedbug Quick Facts

- A single pregnant female bedbug can start an infestation
- Bedbugs hate light so if you can't change rooms sleep with the light on
- Bedbugs can survive for months without eating
- Bedbugs can survive in a 120 degree Fahrenheit temperature for several days
- Bedbugs can survive in a 32 degree Fahrenheit temperature for several weeks
- Bedbug eggs are very sticky and difficult to remove making them efficient hitchhikers
- Adult bedbugs are about the size of an apple seed
- They are known to carry up to 26 known human pathogens; however, they are not known to transmit any diseases

## Bedbugs

Bedbugs are parasites that have feasted on sleeping humans for thousands of years. If people are not available they will feed on other warm blooded animals including birds, rodents, bats and pets.

Their name comes from their tendency to live between mattresses and feed on the occupants at night. Bedbugs are wingless - they do not fly or jump, but move quickly over floors, walls, ceilings and furniture.

Adult bedbugs are brown to reddish brown, oval shaped, flattened and about 1/5 of an inch long. Their flat shape enables them to hide in:

- Window Frames
- Electrical Boxes
- Floor Cracks
- Baseboards
- Furniture
- Under the Tack Board of Carpeting
- Pictures
- Wall Hangings
- Drapery Pleats
- Loosened Wallpaper
- Cracks in Plaster
- Ceiling Molding

Bedbugs were common in the United States prior to WWII. In the past decade bedbugs have begun making a comeback across the United States. Bedbugs are becoming a problem once again perhaps due to:

- Increased International Travel
- Immigration
- Changes in Pest Control Practices
- Insecticide Resistance

**Infestations are not tied to unsanitary living conditions.** Bedbugs are active travelers usually transported in luggage, boxes, clothing, furniture and even hair. Bedbugs are most frequently found in dwellings with a high rate of occupant turnover, such as:

- Hotels
- Motels
- Shelters
- Dormitories
- Apartment Complexes, etc

## Preventing Infestations

- **Secondhand items** – inspect used furniture (upholstered) carefully before bringing it into your house
- **Hotel Precautions** – check mattress seams and place luggage on racks, table and dressers (away from the walls)
- **When Returning From A Trip** - inspect your luggage and clothes for bedbugs, scrub luggage with a firm bristled brush and vacuum thoroughly or seal luggage in a plastic bag for several months to prevent bedbugs from feeding and they will eventually die.

## Signs You Might Have Bedbugs

- **Dark Specks** – usually found around mattress seams
- **Empty Exoskeletons** – they shed and leave the skin behind
- **Bloody Smears** – may find small smears of blood on the sheets where you accidentally crushed an engorged bedbug

**Complete elimination** of bedbug infestation may be difficult without the services of a knowledgeable Pest Control Service. It may even take as many as five or more treatments to gain control of an infestation.

## What to Do If an Infestation Occurs

- **Reduce The Amount of Clutter** - to achieve a good treatment and eliminate hiding places.
- **Vacuum** - mattresses, box springs and carpets. Vacuuming can remove most bedbugs but it can't reach all hiding places. Dispose vacuumed contents into a sealed plastic bag and place outside in a trash can.
- **Cover** - mattress and box spring with plastic covers
- **Spray Bedbugs With Alcohol** – use small plastic spray bottle with 90% rubbing alcohol undiluted in between professional treatments
- **Hot Water** – wash all items in water 120 degrees Fahrenheit
- **Enclosed Vehicle** – (if it's summer) bag up infested items and leave them in a car parked in the sun for a few days
- **Freezing** – place infested items in temperatures reaching below 32 degrees Fahrenheit for several weeks
- **Steam Clean Carpets**
- **Scrub with a Firm Bristled Brush** – mattresses, furniture and picture frames
- **Fill in Cracks** - floors, baseboards, walls (plaster) and molding

- **Contact** – local Pest Control Operator. A list of local licensed pesticide operators can be found on the Ohio Department of Agriculture’s Website located at [www.agi.ohio.gov](http://www.agi.ohio.gov) – under online services.

The fluid injected by bedbugs may cause the skin to become irritated and inflamed. A small hard swollen white welt may develop at the site of each bite. This is accompanied by severe itching that lasts for several hours to days. Rows of three or so welts on exposed skin are characteristic signs of bedbugs. It may take as long as fourteen days for a welt to appear from a bedbug bite. The infected person should resist the urge to scratch the bites as this may intensify the itching and cause an infection.

## Preventing Bites

- **Cover up**- bedbugs don’t tend to burrow under clothes so cover up as much skin as possible
- **Bug Spray** – make sure it works for bedbugs

Downloadable – [Bedbug Brochure](#)

The following list indicates the Health Department and the area(s) they cover. Please make sure to contact the appropriate Health Department in regards to a bedbug issue.

### Alliance City Health Department

- Alliance City

### Canton City Health Department

- Canton City

### Massillon City Health Department

- Massillon City

### Stark County Health Department *(for the following Townships, Villages or Cities)*

- Bethlehem
- Canton
- Jackson
- Lake
- Lawrence
- Lexington
- Marlboro
- Nimishillen
- Osnaburg
- Paris
- Perry
- Pike
- Plain
- Sandy
- Sugarcreek
- Tuscarawas
- Washington

- Beach City
- Brewster
- East Canton
- East Sparta
- Hartville
- Hills & Dales
- Limaville
- Magnolia
- Myers Lake
- Minerva
- Navarre
- Waynesburg
- Wilmot
- Canal Fulton
- Louisville
- North Canton