



Bed Bug Control

Why Worry about Bed Bugs?

Bed bugs are blood feeding insects that are tiny (3/16 inch long) but visible to the naked eye. They have a flat, oval shaped body and the adults are reddish-brown in color, whereas the nymphs are light colored. They feed during the night, and the bites are painless enough that they won't wake you up. Any exposed skin on your body at bed time such as your arms, shoulders, legs, face, and neck can become a hot spot for bed bugs attacks. Typically, a bed bug will feed for 3 to 10 minutes and return back every 5 to 10 days. People may notice the symptoms of an attack on their skin after a day or two, with small bite marks, reddish swellings, and itching. For some people, it may take longer for the symptoms to appear. But the good news is that the bedbugs do not carry any human diseases and do not breed from human blood.



Source: UWEX State Entomology Specialist, Phil Pellitteri

Bedbugs are known to crawl quite a distance at nighttime in search of food, but they do not fly. According to the CDC, they can travel more than 100 feet in a night, but they tend to live within 8 feet of where people sleep. Usually mattress seams, headboards, inside box springs, wooden bed frames, furniture (nightstands, dressers, chairs), and photo frames are common hiding areas for bedbugs during the day time. But they can also hide under electrical plates, cracked wallpaper, around door and window casings, stereo speakers, curtain folds, and so on. This makes it very difficult to control bedbugs. Most common telltale signs of bedbugs found around the hiding areas include its molted skin castings, live eggs, rusty blood colored spots, black waste spots, and the presence of a sweet musty odor.



Source: UWEX State Entomology Specialist, Phil Pellitteri

Bedbugs can go through a generation in about 5 to 6 weeks. However, they can live for several months to a year without feeding. Under warm conditions (70°F), a healthy well fed female bedbug can lay about 500 eggs in her lifetime and the eggs can hatch in about 6 to 10 days. The nymphs undergo 5 stages of molting to reach adult stage, and for each stage they need to feed. Under circumstances where no human hosts are available, they can feed on pets.

How to Prevent?

Early detection is the best way to prevent bedbugs. When staying at hotels, motels or even in apartments check under the box spring, sheets and mattress for any telltale signs of bedbugs. Keep your luggage off the ground and away from the beds. When you return back from the trip, launder your clothes, travel bags, and sleeping bags immediately at a higher temperature (above 115°F) and dry in a hot dryer. Vacuum your suitcases thoroughly. Avoid bringing in any used furniture, couches, or discarded mattress from outside. Inspect under your beds and vacuum your mattress, bed frames, and box springs thoroughly. Special bedbug proof mattress covers and box spring covers are sold in stores these days. If you have a serious infestation, call a professional for effective treatment. For successful control, the treatment has to be thorough and it may take at least two or three follow-up treatments by a professional.

Source: Vijai Pandian, Horticulture Educator, Brown County UW Extension - UWEX State Entomology Specialist, Phil Pellitteri





Roach Control

Why worry?

- Cock roaches contaminate or damage food.
- They can damage wiring.
- Cock roaches contribute to allergies.

Start with prevention

- Don't bring roaches with you.
- Don't feed roaches.
- Keep food in tightly covered containers.
- Don't leave dirty dishes out overnight.
- Take garbage out daily.
- Fix leaky faucets and pipes.

Getting rid of roaches

- Use roach traps to determine where roaches are living.
- Apply insecticides where roaches live.
- Apply insecticides away from pets, children, dishes, and food.





Lead Paint Hazards

When should you worry about lead paint hazards?

- Only in homes built before 1978
- Only when paint is peeling, chipping, chalking, or cracking
- On surfaces where children chew or that have a lot of wear like windows and doors
- In soil near outside of older homes

How do you know?

- Landlords must tell you if they know of any lead hazard in the home before they rent to you.
- Landlords must give you information about lead paint hazards and what to do about them before you rent.
- A pin prick blood test is used to determine whether your child has lead poisoning.

What can you do if you're concerned about lead in your home?

- Visit the Lead-safe Wisconsin site at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lead/index.htm>
- Look under the Protect Your Family tab where you'll find links to information on how to test your child for lead, how to report unsafe lead or asbestos work, and how to check and maintain your home.
- The site also features information on how to fix lead hazards, county-specific lead data, and how to find funding to fix homes with lead problems.

