

# BED BUGS

Learn how to prevent, identify, and treat bed bug infestations.

## What are bed bugs?

- Bed bugs are small insects that feed on the blood of people and animals while they sleep.
- They are oval with flat, rusty red colored bodies.
- They cannot fly or jump.
- They are not a sign of poor hygiene or cleanliness.

## What are signs of bed bugs?

- Rust-colored blood spots on mattresses, sheets, and furniture.
- Finding their exoskeletons after molting.

## What are bed bug bites like?

- Bed bugs usually bite at night.
- Bites are painless and usually don't wake people.
- The bites can develop into large itchy spots on the skin. Some people may have an allergic reaction to bites. Some do not react at all.
- Bed bugs are not known to spread disease.

## How do I prevent bed bugs?

- Check used furniture before bringing it in your home. Look in the cracks and gaps with a flashlight.
- Cover used mattresses and box springs in a bed bug proof plastic case.
- Wash all used bedding, clothing, curtains, and other linens right away in hot water and dry in a hot dryer.
- When traveling, inspect your room. When you get home, check luggage before entering your home.

## What should I do if I think I have bed bugs?

- The best way to get rid of bed bugs is to have a professional pest control company do it.
- Heat treatment combined with chemicals is the most effective way to control bed bugs.
- Treating bed bugs on your own is complicated. Visit the [EPA website for instructions](#).



## Getting rid of bed bugs

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## How Do I Report a Bed Bug Problem?

### Apartments & Rental Units

- If the problem is not addressed by your landlord, call your local building inspector.
- For the City of Madison: (608) 266-4551.
- If there is no Building Inspector in your area, call us: (608) 242-6515.

### Hotels & Motels

- Call us: (608) 242-6515

### Owner Occupied Home

- Contact a Pest Control Company familiar with treating bed bugs.