

Don't let the BED BUGS bite!

Q: What are Bed Bugs?

A: Bed Bugs are small, usually about ¼ of an inch long or less. They feed on blood so they hide in areas where people relax for several hours at a time, usually on a mattress or couch. Because they are so tiny, *Bed Bugs can hide almost anywhere*. The seams along a mattress are a common hiding place, that's why they're called Bed Bugs.



Q: How did I get Bed Bugs?

A: Probably from used furniture or visitors. Mattresses and couches bought at thrift stores or other second-hand dealers may have been infested. If you have frequent overnight guests, they may have brought Bed Bugs to your home.

Q: How can I get rid of them?

A: It is very difficult to get rid of Bed Bugs. First, you have to find them. Lots of boxes and clutter will make it impossible to find all of the Bed Bugs in your home. Look for brown or black spots on furniture and mattresses. These spots are likely dried Bed Bug excrement. Apartments that have a lot of clutter and boxes offer Bed Bugs more hiding spaces so clutter control is important. Areas where Bed Bugs are found must be thoroughly cleaned. Vacuuming is especially important, but make sure the bag is sealed, placed in a plastic garbage bag, and thrown away outside when done! Mattress and couch covers help control the problem and may prevent Bed Bug bites. Unfortunately, sometimes it is necessary to throw away your mattress or other infested furniture. Bed Bugs require the help of a professional Exterminator. **Do not use any store bought products while your home is being serviced by a professional.** These products interfere with the chemicals used by an Exterminator and will make the Bed Bug problem last longer.



Q: Why won't they go away?

A: Although your home may have been professionally treated for Bed Bugs, remember they are very hard to get rid of. As small as a Bed Bug is, their eggs are much smaller. It's easy for an Exterminator to miss just a few eggs and have to return for another round of treatment. **Bed Bug treatments can last for months!** Failure to do what the Exterminator tells you to do will make the problem worse.

Q: After I get rid of them, how can I keep from getting infested again?

A: Don't buy used furniture unless you are sure it is free of infestation. Never pick up furniture that has been set outside for trash pickup. Vacuum your home regularly and thoroughly, especially mattresses and couches. Don't let visitors stay overnight unless they first change into proper sleeping clothes. And be careful about spending the night at someone else's home. They may be less concerned about Bed Bugs than you are!

