

## DEALING WITH BED BUGS

- ◆ Have a plan in place to address bed bug infestations as soon as they occur, and train staff accordingly.
- ◆ Train employees to inspect rooms upon vacancy and whenever a guest complains about bed bugs.
- ◆ Launder bedding and dry at the hottest dryer setting to kill all stages of bed bugs.
- ◆ Thoroughly vacuum infested areas. This includes the mattresses, box springs furniture, beds, headboards, and sofas. Do not forget the void area underneath box springs—tear away the cambric fabric and look for bed bugs there. After you are finished, bag the vacuum cleaner bag and take it to the outside trash dumpster. Vacuum every couple days until the infestation is gone.
- ◆ Eliminate clutter in infested areas to reduce bed bug hiding places and make treatments more effective.
- ◆ Repair cracks and crevices. Eliminate harborage areas by filling in cracks, removing torn wallpaper, and sealing joints and cracks.
- ◆ Work with a reputable licensed pest control company. For a list of companies, visit <http://agr.georgia.gov/pesticide-contractors.aspx>
- ◆ Don't use the infested room until a pest control professional certifies it free of bed bugs.

# BED BUGS

Inspection, Prevention, Control

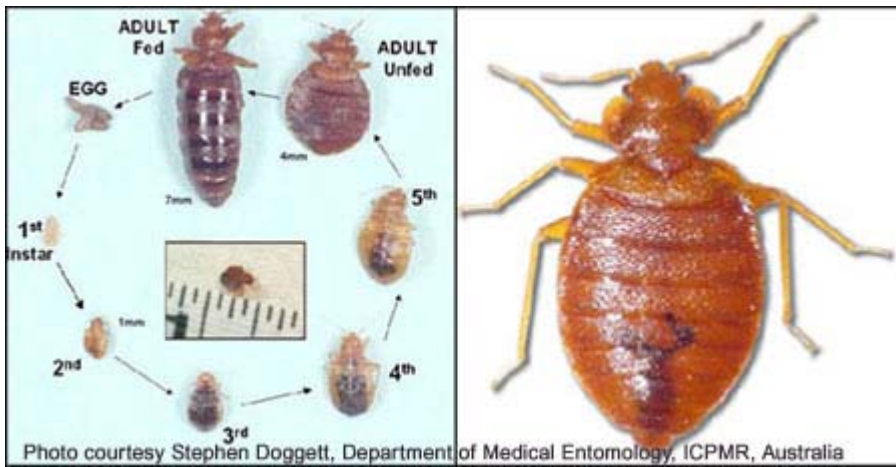


Don't let the bed bugs bite.



Georgia Department of Public Health  
Environmental Health Program





Bed bugs are small wingless insects that feed solely upon the blood of warm-blooded animals. They are sometimes mistaken for ticks or cockroaches. A mature bed bug is oval-bodied, brown to red-brown in color, wingless and flattened top to bottom. Unfed bugs are 1/4 to 3/8 inch long. A bed bug that has recently fed is engorged with blood, dull red in color, and the body is elongated and swollen. Eggs are white and are about 1/25 inch long. Newly hatched bed bugs are nearly colorless or straw-colored.

Bed bugs usually feed on exposed skin of the face, neck, hands, arms, and shoulders. Bites often result in large itchy welts.

**DO NOT USE:**

(1) Aerosol sprays - these will cause bed bugs to scatter

(2) Bug Bombs - these do not kill bed bugs

Bed bugs were once a common nuisance and are currently making a comeback worldwide. Bed bugs can be found in the cleanest of homes, hotels, and other buildings.

Bed bugs can be found almost anywhere in the hotel room. They are most often found in fabric and wood, not metal or plastic. Places to look include:

bed bugs



- In bed frames and headboards
- In mattresses and box springs (especially in the seams or creases)
- Along and under the edge of carpet (behind beds and furniture)
- In hardwood floors (check corners and cracks)
- In molding and baseboard cracks
- Behind picture frames and wall hangings
- In switch plates and outlets
- Under loose wallpaper and paneling
- In clothing or linens stored in closets and drawers
- Inside clocks, phones, TVs and smoke detectors
- In cloth chairs and sofas (check seams, skirts, and under cushions)

