

**Pesticides?**

\*Not a do-it-yourself project! Seek assistance from a licensed pest control company trained to deal with bedbugs.

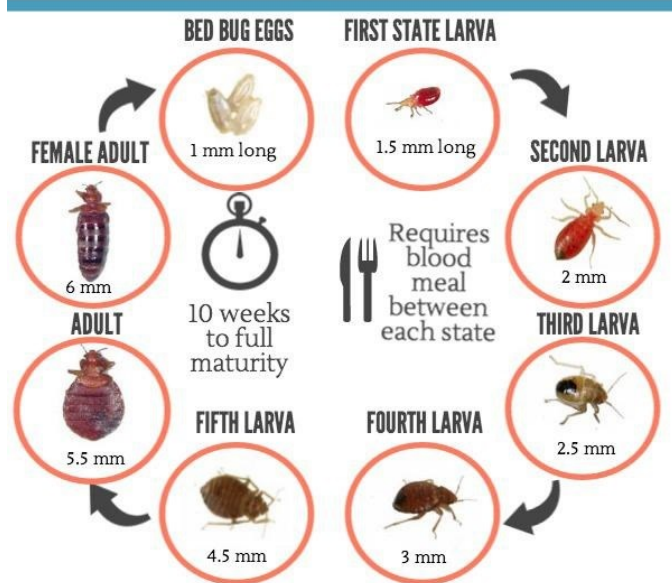
Experienced professionals know where to look for bedbugs and are schooled in techniques and management of these pests.

\*Common household products will not kill bedbugs and can cause them to spread and infest other parts of the home.

Bug bombs will not reach into the tiny cracks and crevices nor the clutter where these bugs can hide.

Insect repellents you can buy at your local hardware store will not stop them and, with repeated use, can pose health threats to YOU and your family.

BED BUG LIFECYCLE				
<b>LIFESPAN</b> 6 months to 1 year without blood meal	<b>FEEDING</b> About 5-10 minutes for a full blood meal	<b>SIZE</b> 1 mm to 6 mm long	<b>BIRTHRATE</b> Female bed bug lays about 200 eggs in a lifetime at a rate of 1- 12 eggs per day	<b>EGGS</b> Hatch in 4 - 12 days



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The Bucks County Commissioners**

# BED BUGS

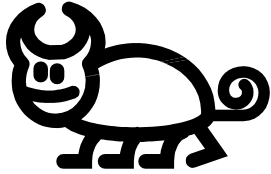
**FACTS YOU MAY  
BE ITCHING TO  
KNOW ...**

*County of Bucks  
Department of  
Consumer Protection/  
Weights and Measures*

**55 E. Court Street, 2nd Floor  
Doylestown, Pa. 18901  
215-348-6060  
1-800-942-2669**

**www.BucksCounty.gov/  
ConsumerProtection**

## Pest Identification:



Bed bugs are small insects that feed on human blood. They are usually active

- Adult bed bugs have flat, rusty-red colored oval bodies, no wings and are about the size of an apple seed. They are big enough to be easily seen, but hide in mattresses, box springs, bedding, cracks in furniture, floors, or walls.
- When bed bugs feed they swell and become brighter red.
- Bites may cause itchy welts on their victim's skin. You may also see small, dark spots on sheets and other surfaces.

Although bed bugs do not cause physical harm by spreading any diseases they do cause mental anguish.

They are difficult to control because their small size allows them to hide almost anywhere near their feeding sites on mattresses, bed frames, cracks/crevices in walls, under peeling paint and behind wall sockets. They will only stay long enough to feed before hiding again.

## Prevention:

Bed bugs cannot fly. They are transported in clothing, backpacks, suitcases, mattresses or other furniture. They can also walk in from adjacent rooms searching for a sleeping human and move up walls, bed linens, bed legs or anything touching the bed.

- Carefully inspect clothing and suitcases after you have traveled., placing clothes in a sealed plastic bag until they can be laundered.
- Avoid receiving used furniture and mattresses as they may be infested.
- Remove clutter from the home, especially the bedrooms where these bugs can find additional places to hide.
- Seal cracks and crevices that lead to other rooms.
- Keep the areas above and below the beds clear. Pull the bed away from the wall while making sure that no bedding touches the floor.
- Use solid, light colored sheets to make it easier in the early detection of bedbugs.

If you live in an apartment building and are concerned about bed bugs, follow the measures above.

In addition, around each bed leg spread a thick layer of petroleum jelly (e.g. Vaseline) in a band at least two inches wide and about six inches off the floor. This is a barrier that bed bugs cannot crawl through.

You can also use small, nested dishes of soapy water under each leg to keep them from climbing up the bed.



## Safely Controlling Bed bugs

- An initial inspection by a licensed, experienced pest management professional (PMP) to assess the severity of the infestation is crucial.
- Inspect and vacuum mattresses, box springs, and bed frames, as well as carpets, and cracks and crevices that bedbugs may hide in during the day.
- After vacuuming, enclose the mattress and box spring in zippered encasements that are rated to prevent piercing of bed bug bites or their escape through the zipper. Leave this cover on for a year or more as bed bugs can live that long without a blood meal.
- **THROW AWAY THE VACUUM BAG IN A SEALED BAG AND REMOVE FROM THE HOUSE**
- Wash bedding, pillows and clothing in HOT water and place in the dryer for at least 20 minutes on the hottest setting.