



A GUIDE TO BED BUGS

Steve's Pest Control, Inc.

Professional Pest and Termite Elimination Services

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You have probably heard the cute bedtime saying – “sleep tight, don’t let the bed bugs bite.” But, have you ever thought about bed bugs actually living in your home? Our bed bug guide is here to help you learn what bed bugs look like, how to prevent them and what to do if you think they’ve entered your home.

We know nobody wants bed bugs in their home. With the newest technology and expert exterminators, we work to quickly and safely remove them from your home or commercial business. If you are concerned about bed bugs, call Steve’s Pest Control today to schedule an appointment!

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Bed Bug Appearance

Bed bugs are approximately one-quarter inch in size, with an oval-shaped body and three legs extending from each side. Their reddish-brown color and flat body resemble an apple-seed, making them difficult to see unless purposefully looking for them.

Bed Bug Behavior & Habitats

Bed bugs are a part of the bloodsucking family, Cimicidae. Feeding mainly on humans, these bugs survive by staying in warm and temperate climates. Commonly found in small, warm crevices, bed bugs emerge at night to feed and then retreat back to their hiding places.

Typically bed bugs bite in a singular linear pattern but can also leave a cluster of bites depending on the number of bugs. However, not all bites will be visible on the skin. Due to their size, some bites may go unnoticed to humans. After feeding, bed bugs return to their small hiding spaces to digest, mate and lay eggs.

The Bed Bug Life Cycle

The typical life cycle of a bed bug is seven to 12 months. They have approximately five different stages of life but are matured within 35 days of hatching. Between each stage, the bugs will emerge to feed and then retreat back to their hiding spots.

In a female's lifetime, approximately one to five eggs are laid each day and 200 to 500 eggs in a lifetime. Due to their rapid life cycle, infestations can occur quickly if not treated. If you are concerned about an infestation, contact us for a free pest evaluation.



Bed Bug Fast Facts

- Female bed bugs lay five to seven eggs a week.
- Eggs hatch within six to 10 days and are fully developed within 35 to 48 days.
- They feed not only on humans but also on small animals.
- Bed bugs can live 12 to 18 months without feeding.
- Bed bugs feed for three to 10 minutes at night.
- They are able to ingest seven times their body weight in liquid.
- Bed bugs can carry diseases but do not transmit diseases.
- They are attracted to the heat and carbon dioxide humans emit while sleeping.
- Their saliva contains an anesthetic, so you can't feel their bite.



Popular Hiding Spots

Since they are attracted to warm places and small crevices, mattresses are common locations for bed bugs. However, other popular locations include baseboards, couches, other lounging furniture, drawers, and drapes.

To ensure you do not bring bed bugs into your home when purchasing used furniture, inspect the underside where the fabric meets the legs.

Bed bugs can reside in these small locations for extended periods of time.

Although the name says otherwise, bed bugs are found in more places than beds. Whether you are inspecting your home or a new place you are staying, use our guide to ensure no spots go unchecked!





Prevention Tips

No matter where you are staying, bed bugs may be a risk. Known as hitchhiker pests, bed bugs will latch themselves to your belongings and travel with you to your next destination. Don't let that be your home! Follow our prevention tips to ensure bed bugs stay far away from your home and family.

Be Wary

If you are staying somewhere besides your home, don't get comfortable too fast! To ensure bed bugs do not latch on, leave your luggage and belongings in your car or at the door of your destination. Thoroughly inspect your surroundings before settling in to ensure bed bugs are not present. Check our popular hiding spots section to be sure no bugs go unnoticed!

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Prevention Tips

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Thorough Inspections

If you are concerned about bed bugs being near, thoroughly inspect the bedroom first. Ninety percent of bed bugs are found around the mattress and box spring. Remove all sheets, comforters, pillows and other covers from your bed and place them in the dryer, if available, on high heat for approximately an hour.

While bed sheets are in the dryer, inspect the seams, tufts, and folds of the mattress. It's important to remember bed bugs are approximately the size of an apple seed and difficult to spot. They are attracted to warm locations and crevices, so use a flashlight to ensure proper lighting when inspecting small areas.

Look not only for bugs, but also for eggs, feces, or discarded skin. Even if you do not spot live bugs,

finding small black feces spots or discarded skin on or near the mattress can indicate bed bugs are close by.

Arriving Home

Even if you thoroughly inspected your temporary bed or room, you'd rather be safe than sorry when arriving home. Leave your luggage and belongings that could have potentially been in contact with bugs in the garage or outside before entering your home.

Empty your belongings, such as shoes and clothes, into a trash bag and immediately put them into the dryer for an hour. Heat can kill any bed bugs that may have found its way onto your clothing. Finally, it is recommended that you store your luggage in the garage rather than in your home for the future.

We know infestations can not always be prevented. If you find yourself battling bed bugs, call our experts today. Our heat technology quickly eliminates bed bugs from your home or business with one treatment. By minimizing the use of pesticides and chemicals, we are able to keep your family safe and rid you of your pest problem in one day! Contact our expert exterminators for more information today.

Preparation for Bed Bug Treatment

Proper treatment is important to ensure your home or business is not infested with bed bugs. With females laying up to 500 eggs in their life, bed bug infestations can get out of hand quickly. Contact our expert exterminators if you are concerned about bed bugs taking over your home or commercial business. Before treatment begins, our exterminators will provide you with a prep list to ensure your home is ready for our heat treatment technologies.

Heat Treatment Technology

Since 2010, we have been eliminating bed bugs with heat technology to eliminate the use of chemicals in your home. This new technology allows us to thoroughly exterminate your space in one day so your family can get back to living without pests in no time!

Air movers and digital temperatures are strategically placed to regulate the temperature to be between 125-140 degrees Fahrenheit throughout your home. The temperature is controlled not only in the open space but also within walls, beneath carpets and other locations bed bugs may be found. Heating your home for four hours will ensure all eggs, nymphs and adult bed bugs are killed. During treatment, our exterminators will ensure all bugs are eliminated and allow you to re-enter your home. If you have questions about the heat technology used to eliminate bed bugs contact us today!

Steps to Prepare

Before our experts enter your home with heat technology, it is important to prepare your home so no

belongings are lost or damaged. Before your appointment you will receive a prep list to ensure your home is properly prepared. Until then, follow our quick steps to preparing your home.

Declutter Your Home – The less clutter you have the easier it is to treat. If you have unnecessary items sitting in your home, begin to organize and remove them. However, keep in mind you should not donate any old clothing or furniture until it is properly cleaned and any bed bugs are exterminated.

Vacuum and Sweep – Excessive pet hair or dust can be hazardous when bringing in heat technology. Thoroughly clean your carpets and floors to prevent loose hair and dust from being blown around by the heat technology.

Remove Flammables and Pressurized Items – Due to the heat in your home rising to at least 125 it is important to remove any flammable or pressurized items from your home. This can include fuel, lighters, alcohol, etc. If you have any questions contact our experienced exterminators for more information.

Eliminate Piles – Bed bugs like to stay in warm dark spots such as piles of clothing, blankets, etc. If you have piles of items around your home that bed bugs may find their way into, begin removing them. Whether that means hanging up clothing in closets or unfolding blankets before the treatment, having airflow during the treatment is important for bed bug removal.



Frequently Asked Questions

Are bed bugs only found in beds?

Although their name suggests otherwise, bed bugs can be found in multiple places. Furniture, drawers, mattresses, loose fabrics and clothing often attract bed bugs. Check out our Popular Hiding Spots section for more information on where bed bugs can be found.

Can bed bugs make you sick?

Typically bed bugs do not transmit diseases, so their bites will not make you sick. However, some people may have allergic reactions to their bites which can result in needing medical attention. Although bed bugs do not present health concerns, their ability to reproduce quickly and take over homes is dangerous if not treated. If you are concerned about bed bugs, it's better to call for a free pest evaluation today than wait and have over 500 bed bugs swarming your home!

What are the signs and symptoms of bed bugs?

Bed bugs are nocturnal creatures emerging at night, often leaving small bite marks identified by small red itchy bumps. However, these bite marks can take up to two weeks to emerge, so knowing other infestation signs are important if you are concerned about bed bugs.

They leave behind dark reddish-brown or black spots in nesting locations. Inspect mattress seams and cushion cracks for small spots to determine where bed bugs may be hiding.

Bed bugs leave behind skin sheddings. Varying in size, their shell skin can be dark brown or light

brown. Check near mattresses, box springs, cushions or floorboards to determine if your home or apartment has been exposed to bed bugs.

Bed bugs feed on exposed skin and bite in patterns. Itchy bumps can emerge on exposed skin and can be a sign that bed bugs are located near your sleeping area.

How did bed bugs get into my home?

Known as hitchhiker pests, bed bugs latch on and travel with you. Whether they come from used furniture or travel between units in apartment complexes and hotels, bed bugs are clever and able to transfer from room to room easily. Explore our tips on preventing bed bugs before your next trip to ensure you are practicing good habits and eliminating the risk of bed bugs in your home.

How do I remove bed bugs?

Bed bugs are known for being pesky creatures that are difficult to remove and control. Although there may be DIY methods available, the only for sure way to know if you have rid your home or business of bed bugs is to call a professional exterminator.

Exterminators have been trained to know the signs of infestations and how to properly eliminate them. Using homemade chemicals and pesticides can put your family at risk if not done properly. Contact the experts at Steve's Pest Control if you are concerned about bed bug infestations in your home. Our heat technology treatment option is a safe and effective way to remove these troublesome pests.

Contact Our Professional Exterminators

The experts at Steve's Pest Control have been eliminating bed bugs and other mid-Missouri pests since 1988. With state-of-the-art technology we eliminate your pest problem quickly. So, if you find that bed bugs have over run your home or commercial business, call us today at (844) 896-8024. Our heat treatment will remove your bed bugs in one day allowing your family to safely re-enter your home without the fear of bed bugs. Contact us for more information or to schedule a free pest evaluation.

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