

Let's Beat the Bug!

Bed Bug Basics

- Bed bugs are small insects, about the size of an apple seed. Adult bed bugs are flat, oval and reddish-brown in color. Juvenile bed bugs can be very small and hard to see.
- Bed bugs feed on human blood and can live for over a year without a meal.
- Bed bugs usually hide during the day near where people rest or sleep and then come out at night to feed. Bed bugs do not live on our bodies.
- Some people do not react when bitten by a bed bug.
- Most bed bugs are found within 8 feet of a person's resting place. As the infestation grows, bed bugs will spread further. You can find bed bugs in any of the following places:
 - In mattresses, box springs, bed frames, and bedding
 - In the cracks and crevices of furniture
 - Behind peeling wall paper
 - Behind pictures and clocks
 - In curtains
 - In cracks in hardwood floors
 - Under carpeting
 - Behind electrical outlets or switch plates

For more information contact the **Bed Bug InformationLine** at **612-624-2200, 1-855-644-2200** **bedbugs@umn.edu**, or visit **www.bedbugs.umn.edu**

What NOT to Do When You have Bed Bugs



- ⊗ Do not Panic. You can control bed bugs with careful inspection and by using proper control methods.

Do not try to kill bed bugs by using agricultural or garden pesticides.
- ⊗ Using outdoor pesticides to control bed bugs can make you or your family very sick.

Do not use products that appear to be “homemade” or “custom formulated.” Homemade products could be dangerous and they might make the problem worse.
- ⊗ Do not use products that have labels in a language other than English.
- ⊗ Do not apply pesticides directly to your body. This could make you very sick.
- ⊗ Do not use rubbing alcohol, kerosene or gasoline. These chemicals may cause fires.
- ⊗ Do not throw away your furniture. Beds and other furniture can be treated for bed bugs. Throwing away your furniture can spread the bugs and you have to buy new furniture.
- ⊗ Do not store things under the bed. Storing stuff under the bed gives bed bugs many new places to hide. This makes it more difficult to get rid of bed bugs.
- ⊗ Do not move things from room to room. Moving your things from the room with bed bugs to another room in your house may spread the bed bugs.
- ⊗ Do not wrap items in black plastic and place in the sun. It will not get hot enough to kill all the bugs.

Things you can do if you think you have bed bugs:

- ✓ Make sure it is a bedbug; see the factsheet “*Have I found a Bed Bug?*” at www.bedbugs.umn.edu/have-i-found-a-bed-bug
- ✓ Contact a Pest Management Professional or your landlord.
- ✓ Take steps to control the infestation; see the factsheet “*Bed Bug Control in Residences*” at www.bedbugs.umn.edu/bed-bug-control-in-residences

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In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this information is available in alternative forms of communication upon request by calling 651/201-6000. TTY users can call the Minnesota Relay Service at 711 or 1-800-627-3529.

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