

Don't Bring Bedbugs Home!

Bedbugs are increasing across the country so be on the alert and keep them out. Learn how to identify a bedbug and be very careful what you bring into your home. Exterminating bedbugs from your home can be extremely difficult and expensive.

What do bedbugs look like?

Adults are reddish-brown, wingless insects about the size of an apple seed. They are slightly flat when viewed from the side which is why they can fit into narrow spaces. Young bedbugs called nymphs look like the adults but smaller and are white or yellowish. The eggs are white and about the size of a pinhead. Bedbugs feed on blood and prefer humans but will also feed on animals including pets, mice, and bats.



Adult & Nymph

Bedbugs can survive for over a year without feeding.

Signs of Bedbugs

Bedbugs (reddish-brown) eggs (white), cast skins (yellow) and fecal dots (black).



Adult Bedbug
1/4 - 3/8 inch long



Bedbugs on a Mattress

Be Careful What You Bring Home!

Do not bring infested items into your home. Closely inspect new and used furniture, clothing, boxes, luggage, and other items especially after travelling. If you suspect bedbugs, place items in a hot dryer for 30 minutes. This will kill the bedbugs. If an item cannot go in the dryer, place it in a tightly sealed container or bag with an insecticide strip that contains the chemical Dichloros for 24 hours. Carefully air out items in a well-ventilated area before bringing into the home. ***ALWAYS follow manufacturers directions for pesticides, use extreme caution & do not let children handle them.***



Picking up discarded furniture may not be a good idea.

When Traveling...

Place luggage in the bathtub then thoroughly inspect your hotel room especially around the mattress.

Thrift Stores/Garage Sales Finds...

Place items in sealed bags, place in trunk, not in the car, and carefully inspect.

If Treatment is Necessary...

Use a licensed pest control professional. Nothing you can buy over the counter to treat your house is effective at killing bedbugs. Regular insect repellents for ticks and mosquitoes do not seem to work either. **DO NOT USE BUG BOMBS.** They do not work and may scatter them throughout your house.



For More Information...

Contact the Hocking County Health Department at 740-385-3030 or online at www.hockingcountyhealthdepartment.com. Or visit the Ohio Bed Bug Task Force at www.centralohiobedbugs.org.



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