



Resources

This information brochure is intended to educate and help identify the basics about bed bugs. Public agencies and private or public housing administrators and their facilities management teams that would like to inquire more on bed bugs could use the following recommendations :

Central Ohio Bed Bug Task Force
<http://centralohiobedbugs.org/>

Integrated Pest Management
<http://ipm.illinois.edu>

Environmental Protection Agency
(703) 308-8712
<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/bedbugs/>

Center for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30333
(800)CDC-INFO, (800) 232-4636
<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/bedbugs/>

401 Division Street
P.O. Box 4009
Rockford, Illinois 61110
Phone: 815-720-4101
Fax: 815-720-4203

BED BUGS IN WINNEBAGO COUNTY?

*“A Safer and Healthier Community For
Winnebago County”*



(815) 720-4101

What are Bed Bugs?

Bed bugs (*Cimex lectularius*) are a common parasitic pest that feeds on blood. Bed bugs prefer human blood but they will also feed on any warm blooded animals, including rodents and pets. Bed bugs do not carry or spread disease, but they are a nuisance to everyday life.

What do they look like?

Although bed bugs are extremely small in size, the adult bed bug is visible to the human eye. An adult bed bug ranges from 1/4 to 3/8 inches long and is reddish brown. Bed bug eggs hatch into nymphs which are less than 1/10 inch long and are light in color to colorless.



Bed bug before feeding (Left). Bed bug after feeding (Right).

Where are they found?

Bed Bugs are typically found in dwellings with high occupancy ratings. Hotels, hostels, dormitories, apartment complexes, movie theaters, but private dwellings are not excluded.

These pests hide in mattresses, box springs, bed frames, dressers, upholstered furniture, and other furniture cracks, crevices, electrical outlets, baseboards, and window and door casings. They prefer fabric, wood, and paper surfaces.

SIGNS OF INFESTATION

An apparent sign of bedbugs are small black dots (feces) left behind in and near bed bug hiding places. You may also find shed bed bug skins, egg shells, and live bed bugs. Where bed bugs are crushed, blood stains are typically seen. Bed bugs are not only bothersome but they can irritate humans upon biting. Bed bugs are most active when we sleep. They crawl onto exposed skin, inject a mild anesthetic and suck up a small amount of blood. Most people never feel the actual bite. As a result itchy red welts may be present. Since other insect bites could produce the same outcome, a thorough inspection should be used to confirm infestation.

Eradication & Prevention

It is highly recommended to consult with a licensed professional who is trained in bed bug elimination. There are both chemical and non-chemical measures that can be used to combat bed bug infestation.

Chemical pesticides require a licensed professional using a controlled applicator who should:



- Apply insecticides to targeted sites
- Rotate insecticides
- Use a variety of insecticides

Non-Chemical measures include:

- Minimize clutter
- Launder all bedding , clothing , etc. in hot water at least 120 degrees Fahrenheit and dry on hot setting for 15 minutes.
- Encase mattresses and box springs in plastic covers that have a seal
- Vacuum
- Limit visitors and check shoes and clothes to avoid spreading bed bugs

Bed Bug Don'ts

- Ignoring the problem will make it worse
- Try to treat the home yourself without consulting a professional
- Use fly spray to kill bed bugs, it may spread
- Give or loan clothing , furniture, toys, or other personal items to anyone
- Scratch the bites

