

# Bugged?

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Residential and Commercial • Indoor & Perimeter Pest Control • Lawn and Ornamental Spraying & Fertilizing • Termite Control Solutions

## Keys to Preventing Bed Bugs in Your Home

### • Be careful when traveling

Upon arriving at the hotel inquire if they have had any incidents or reports of bed bugs.

During the first night traveling do not unpack anything until you remove the mattress cover and check for bed bugs in the seams as well as behind the headboard and in the top drawers of the end table. Look for blood spots on the bed as well.

Be sure to place your luggage away from the beds and keep luggage closed and pockets and zippers sealed during your stay. Examine your luggage again prior to leaving the hotel.

Leave luggage outside upon returning home. Separate clothing that can be laundered from clothing that needs dry cleaning in separate bags. Wash all clothes on hot water cycle and dry on high heat setting for at least ½ hour. Dry cleaned clothes should also be placed in the dryer on high heat setting (if item is not heat sensitive).

- Do not purchase used mattresses or scavenge mattresses, box springs, or other furniture from dumpsters or along the road.
- Use mattress and box spring encasements (Protect-A-Bed)
- Reduce your clutter and be sure to not keep piles of clothes, boxes, shoes, toys, etc. on the floor or under the bed where bed bugs could hide.

• Vacuum your bedroom often and discard the vacuum bag in another plastic bag before throwing away (be aware that vacuums can become infested too).

• Pull your bed a couple inches away from the wall so that it is not touching the wall.

• Inspect bed frames, mattress seams, and box springs frequently. Use solid white sheets or light colors instead of florals, patterns, or dark color sheets to make bed bugs and blood spots easier to see when inspecting.

• Have a preventative pest control treatment performed by a professional to treat all cracks, crevices and voids in bedrooms.

**Petri Now Offering FREE BED BUG HOME INSPECTIONS for Current Customers with No Obligation to Buy. Call anytime prior to January 31st, 2011 to schedule your free inspection. For further details call Petri's office at (954) 781-4100 or inquire online at [info@petrispestcontrol.com](mailto:info@petrispestcontrol.com)**



## Bed Bugs a Spreading Problem



In Petri's summer 2006 Edition of "Bugged" we highlighted the recent resurgence of bed bugs as a problem pest after decades of being only a rare sighting. Over 4 years later and bed bugs have become a near pandemic problem that has been chronicled in thousands of newspaper articles, magazines, and new programs. As your pest control provider we thought it was important to list what we believe are the most relevant and essential facts about bed bugs. We also wanted to let you know what Petri's can do for you, our customer, in preventing an occurrence of bed bugs at your home or business. ( Continued on page 2 )



# Facts You Need To Know About Bed Bugs

**What do bed bugs look like?** Adults of the common bed bug are about ¼ inch long, reddish to dark brown in color with flattened bodies. Although they cannot fly, they can run quickly. Eggs and newly hatched nymphs are pale and very tiny – the size of a pin head.

**How do bed bugs spread? Why did they resurge so dramatically?** They spread easily by “hitch-hiking” on all types of household items, such as clothing, bedding, luggage, furniture, backpacks, and animal cages. There are several theories on why bed bugs made such a comeback including overall increases in worldwide travel and travel to underdeveloped and war-torn areas, which can have high infestation rates for bed bugs. Changes in pest management practices with an emphasis on use of baits versus residual sprays may have contributed to the rise as well.

**What are signs of a bed bug infestation?** A painless bite can leave red welts that itch and occur mainly while sleeping (bed bugs feed mostly at night). Humans are preferred host but bed bugs can feed on other animals. Live bed bugs, dark brown or rusty spots (excrement), eggs and molted skins of bedbugs found on mattresses, bedding, clothing, and even walls and ceilings are indications of infestations.

**What do bed bugs feed on? Do they transmit disease?** Bed bugs feed only on one thing – blood! Although the amount of blood feeding may appear to make bed bugs a serious threat as disease vectors, up to this time it has never been documented that the bed bug transmits a single human disease.

**Where do bed bugs typically infest?** Found most often in hotels, apartments, rooming houses, schools, private homes, homeless shelters and hostels. They also can infest hospitals, nursing homes, theaters, trains, planes, buses, cruise ships, moving vans, etc.

**Where do they hide?** Due to flat bodies bed bugs can hid virtually anywhere. They hide and lay eggs in mattress seams, box springs, bedding, head boards, baseboards, wall voids, picture frames, sofas, furniture, carpeting, drapes, and any other crack the width of a business card. Although they prefer to infest wood and fabrics, they have been found in electronic devices, such as alarm clocks and radios as well as ceiling smoke alarms and light switches.

**How are bed bugs treated?** Bed bugs are the most difficult of all pests to control and complete elimination can often take several weeks or even months. For hotels and apartments this can be an expensive process with costs sometimes in the tens of thousands of dollars. Since bed bugs have made their comeback researchers and manufacturers have continually looked for new methods to treat bed bugs. All of these methods have their pros and cons but there remains no silver bullet to eliminating bed bugs. Many of the newer methods are used in conjunction with traditional pest control applications. Some of the newer methods include:

- **Heat treatments** (both localized and whole structure)
- **Steam treatments**, vacuuming, and mechanical removal
- **Cold treatments** including freezing with pressurized, CO2
- **Tent Fumigation** is sometimes used to kill bed bugs just like termites, particularly in South Florida where tenting is more available and less costly than other parts of the Country.
- **Traditional treatments** with liquids, dusts, aerosols, etc. applied in cracks, crevices and voids where bed bugs hide.
- **Use of Various Traps and Monitors** to track and confirm the presence of bed bugs
- **Use of a specially trained dog** to detect bed bugs

**Why are bed bugs so tough to eliminate? Bed bugs remain the toughest of all pest problems for several reasons including:**

- Bed bugs are difficult to detect early in an infestation due to their cryptic, secretive nature and their small, flattened bodies make it easy for them to hide. Bed bugs have painless bites that are often not noticed right away and are often misdiagnosed.
- Bed bug eggs are extremely difficult to find, remove, or kill and adult female bed bugs lay eggs every day. Over several weeks 200 eggs or more can be deposited in various hiding places where they are glued to surfaces
- Bed bugs can survive long periods without feeding. Adult bed bugs, under the right conditions, can survive for year or more without a blood meal. They may remain hidden in their protected harborages, without feeding, for months after treatment, allowing them to survive.
- Bed bugs have built up resistance to many pesticides and the residual effect against bed bugs of many of today’s pesticides has been disappointing.