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Bitten by the bug

Bedbugs

Pest Control Services

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Bedbugs

Characteristics

Adult bedbugs are roughly apple pip size and may vary slightly in colour. After a feed they will appear red/purple. Hungry bedbugs will appear opaque.

Where to find bedbugs

- Bedbugs hide by day and feed from mammals, principally humans, while they are asleep at night. You may therefore find adult bedbugs in mattress seams, corners and buttons. You may also be able to see bedbugs in sockets, cracks and crevices, on curtains or along skirting boards and carpet edges
- Staining – bedbugs deposit their faeces after every meal. This will appear as dark brown stains on bedding especially around the edges of mattresses and bed frames where they are mainly found. This will be more pronounced with heavier infestations
- Blood - spots of blood may be found in bedding. This is caused from the bedbugs feeding or from the crushing of the insect
- Odour – Bedbugs produce a characteristic smell from their faeces and scent glands.

Bedbug infestations are on the rise, mainly due to the increase of worldwide travel. Bedbugs are excellent travellers and holiday makers can often carry infested suitcases back and infest their homes. Second hand furniture may also harbour bedbugs within the seams, cracks and crevices.

Problems caused by bedbugs

Bedbugs can be an unpleasant and persistent nuisance due to their feeding habits. They draw blood from their hosts by piercing the skin. The bedbug's saliva causes redness, swelling and itching. Some people could have an allergic reaction which is a concern for those at risk of anaphylaxis.

Unlike mosquitoes and ticks there are no confirmed cases of bedbugs spreading diseases from one human to another.



Life Cycle

The females produce up to 200 eggs which hatch into nymphs resembling miniature adults. All nymphal stages feed on mammalian blood and reach full development in about 4 months. Under suitable conditions several generations per year are possible.

Control

Vacuuming the mattress and fabrics of infested areas may help reduce the number of insects and eggs. The vacuum needs to be emptied outside into a sealed bag and disposed of in the outside bin. This will not prevent bedbugs but will help control numbers

The treatment of bedbugs can be a long process. They are notoriously difficult insects to eradicate especially where high levels of infestation exist. Treatments often have to be tried and varied to ensure success. Treatment can take from 2 weeks to 2 months and sometimes longer if an infestation is severe.

For these reasons we do not recommend that you try and treat an infestation yourself.

Please contact us for further information on treatments and current charges



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