

WHAT ARE BED BUGS?

Bed bugs are thin, brown, oval-shaped insects slightly smaller than a lady bug. They are easily mistaken for ticks or roaches. These pests tend to be most active at night and feed on the blood of people and animals. They cannot fly or jump. But they crawl very quickly.

Unfed bugs are 1/4 to 3/8 inches long. A bed bug that has recently fed is engorged with blood, dull red in color, and the body is elongated and swollen. Eggs are white and are about 1/25 inch long. Newly hatched bed bugs are nearly colorless or straw colored.

Bed bugs usually feed on exposed skin of the face, neck, hands, arms and shoulders. Bites often result in large itchy welts.

You can bring bed bugs to your apartment home in luggage, backpacks, even furniture. They move from place to place by "hitchhiking" in these items.

Be sure to inspect your items when returning home to make sure you didn't bring them home with you.



MISSOURI
APARTMENT
ASSOCIATION

www.MissouriApartmentAssociation.com

PO Box 776
Columbia, MO 65205-0776
573-875-8955

MAA AFFILIATES

APARTMENT ASSOCIATION OF KANSAS CITY
913-248-0355

COLUMBIA APARTMENT ASSOCIATION
573-875-8955

MID-MISSOURI APARTMENT ASSOCIATION
573-635-0613

SOUTHWEST MISSOURI APARTMENT ASSOCIATION
417-438-2519

GREATER SPRINGFIELD APARTMENT & HOUSING ASSOCIATION
417-886-8606

ST. LOUIS APARTMENT ASSOCIATION
314-205-8844



BED BUGS



Protect yourself.
Get informed.
Stop the spread.

Information provided in this brochure was provided by various industry resources and does not necessarily reflect the direct opinions/recommendations of the MAA.



Brought to you by the
Missouri Apartment Association

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I THINK I HAVE BED BUGS?

Several different kinds of insects resemble bed bugs, so any bugs found in your apartment home should be carefully compared to pictures to confirm their identity. A pest control expert or entomologist can also accurately identify the insects you collect. You can also take the insects you collect to the apartment management office for positive identification.

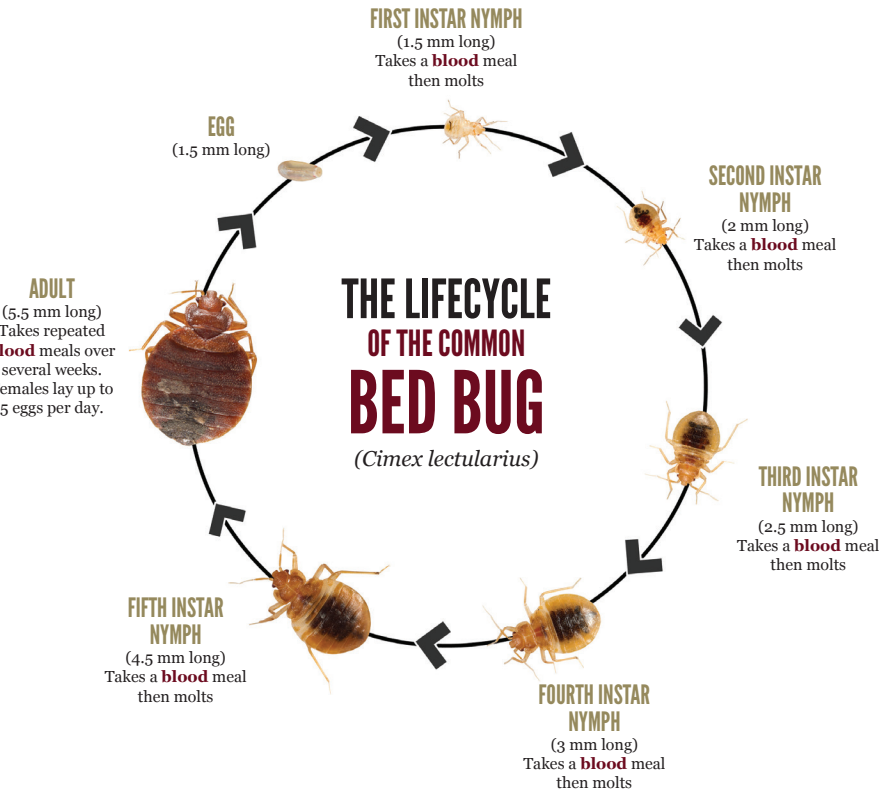
It is the responsibility of the resident to promptly notify the management office if they think they may have bed bugs. Bed bugs have been able to adapt to many types of chemical pesticides.

Do not attempt to spray over the counter pesticides

WHERE CAN I FIND BED BUGS?

Bed bugs can be found almost anywhere in the apartment home. They are most often found in fabric and wood, not metal or plastic. Places to look include:

- In bed frames and headboards
- In mattresses and box springs (especially in the seams or creases)
- Along and under the edge of carpet (behind beds and furniture)
- In hardwood floors (check corners and cracks)
- In molding and baseboard cracks
- Behind picture frames and wall hangings
- In switch plates and outlets
- Under loose wallpaper and paneling
- In clothing or linens stored in closets and drawers
- Inside clocks, phones, TVs and smoke detectors
- In cloth chairs and sofas (check seams, skirts and under cushions)



HOW CAN BED BUGS BE PREVENTED?

- Do not pick up any used furniture or mattresses/box springs from the roadside or by trash containers.
- If you have received furniture from a rental service, always check the seams and any creased areas for bed bugs.
- When traveling, check all motel rooms thoroughly before setting your luggage on the floor or bed.
- Do not sit on furniture or lay in beds where you think there may be a problem.
- While cleanliness is not a major factor in fighting bed bugs, it is a good idea not to have clutter around your home or in your room.
- Once bed bugs are in a building, they often spread from room to room. Inspecting the surrounding areas is necessary so all areas can be treated to prevent spreading.



QUICK FACTS

- A single, pregnant female bed bug can start an infestation by producing approximately 500 eggs in her life time.
- Bed bugs can go months without food.
- Bed bugs can survive 100°F temperature for several days.
- Bed bugs can survive freezing temperatures for several weeks.
- Bed bug eggs are very sticky and difficult to remove, making them efficient hitchhikers.

DO BED BUGS SPREAD DISEASE?

Bed bugs are not known to spread disease.

Bed bugs inject a small amount of saliva into the skin while feeding. An allergic reaction to the saliva may cause the area around the bite to become swollen and itchy. Do not scratch bites, as this may worsen the irritation and may lead to a secondary infection.

