

BED BUGS: WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF AN INFESTATION

After many years of no reported cases, bed bugs are returning as a nuisance to residents and property managers alike. The Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) wants to help Ohioans learn to identify these pests and what should be done to treat apartments and homes in order to prevent infestations.

What are Bed Bugs?

About the size of an apple seed, these invaders primarily live in the tufts and seams of mattresses, waiting to feed on their unsuspecting, sleeping victims. When a bed bug bites, it causes an itchy, red welt that usually goes away in a couple days. The bites tend to be in linear patterns on exposed skin, but pose little health risk to those who encounter them.



No matter how clean a home is, infestations have been known to occur. While most bed bugs live on mattresses or in blankets, they have been found in other areas of the bedroom and home. In some cases, they have been found living in:

- baseboards
- pictures
- loose wallpaper
- curtains
- electrical wall plates
- electrical boxes
- cracks in the floor or plaster
- under carpeting tack board
- other furniture such as dressers and nightstands

Contact Information

Property Name: _____
Address: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
Manager Name: _____

What to Look For

One sign to look for is the presence of small, rust colored spots on sheets, blankets or mattresses. You may even be able to see the insects or egg sacks.



If bed bugs are suspected, residents should notify their property management immediately. The property manager should then call a pest control company to treat not only the infested unit, but also the surrounding units since the bugs can migrate easily through the walls or floor and even travel on people and clothing. A pest control company can provide an Integrated Pest Management Plan to help prevent re-infestation. Property managers should also:

- repair cracks in plaster
- glue loose wallpaper
- caulk along baseboards
- install weather stripping on doors and windows
- apply expandable foam for areas around drains and water pipes

How to Treat an Infestation

Residents should wash and dry all their clothing, bedding and curtains on the hottest setting allowed on the washing instructions. A thorough cleaning of the home should be done before treatment to help reduce the number of places that they can hide. To prevent bringing bugs into the home, residents should inspect all furniture purchased from second hand stores. When staying in hotels, travelers should check mattresses and behind headboards and place all suitcases on luggage racks.

