



Loss Control Insights

Everything you Need to Know About Bed Bugs

Recently an emergency service had unexpected guests ... bed bugs. This situation caused complete chaos for a few days, the building had to be exterminated multiple times, all mattresses, chair with cushions or couches had to be discarded. It even got down to throwing away the bed frames because the little buggers got into the "nuts and bolts" area. And this is not to mention all the time and effort put into the mounds of laundry. And not to mention the concern on part of the employees, bed bugs can hitch a ride to an employees' car, home ... it seemed endless for this organization.

And so hence some tips about bed bugs. Bedbugs are small, wingless insects that feed exclusively on the blood of warm-blooded animals, humans are the preferred hosts.

Fast facts on bedbugs

- Most bedbugs feed on their hosts while they are asleep.
- The peak time for feeding is between midnight and 5 am.
- Bites can be seen quickly but may take up to 14 days to become visible.
- Bed bugs need to feed regularly to reproduce, lay eggs and survive.

Signs



The most obvious sign of bedbugs in the home is that people complain of bites that occurred while they were asleep. If this happens, examine the bedrooms for bedbugs and signs of bedbug activity. Look carefully in bed linen and the seams and tufts of mattresses and box springs for bugs or eggs. The eggs will look like tiny, pale poppy seeds.

Signs of bedbug activity may occur beneath loose areas of wallpaper near beds, in the corner of desks and dressers, in the laundry, and in drawers. Keep an eye out for dark brown or rust-colored bedbug droppings that stain material and mattresses. Bedbug excrement is a liquid that looks either light brown or black, and it usually either beads up or is absorbed by the material around it. A large population of bedbugs may produce a coriander-like odor.

Treatment

Treatment focuses on relieving symptoms and includes:

- topical creams, such as cortisone, to relieve itching
- an oral antibiotic, if infection occurs because of skin irritation around the bite
- corticosteroids, if a person has a severe allergic reaction
- antihistamines, to help relieve allergic reactions

Most bites heal within 1 and 2 weeks of occurrence.

Causes

Bedbugs are adaptable, and there are many ways in which a bedbug infestation can occur. They may get into a new home as stowaways when luggage, furniture, and bedding is moved in. People should be careful when purchasing second-hand furniture and should never purchase used mattresses. A careful visual inspection should allow a person to detect bedbugs or their droppings

Removal

Since bedbugs can hide in a wide range of places in the home, they are not easy to remove. It is advisable to bring in a pest control professional. Removing excess clutter from the house, giving the bedbugs fewer places to hide, makes inspection and removal less difficult. and there are many exterminating companies that can give your professional advice.