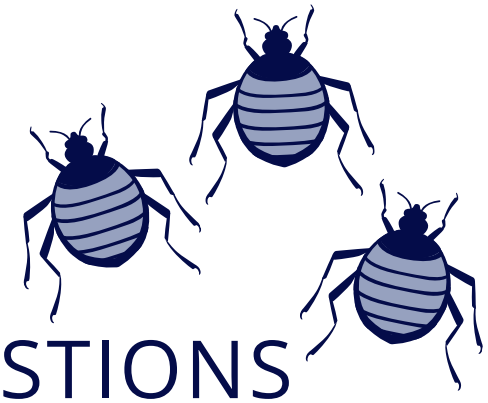
Delaware Public Health District
Dedicated to your health

BEDBUG FAQ



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT ARE BEDBUGS?
Bedbugs are insects that feed on blood. Adult bedbugs are reddish brown and oval shaped.

HOW DO BEDBUGS GROW?
A bedbug hatches from its egg and becomes a nymph. It then molts five times, shedding its skin, until it becomes full sized.

HOW DO BEDBUGS MOVE?
Bedbugs walk and attach to surfaces. They do not fly or jump.

WHERE ARE BEDBUGS FOUND?
Bedbugs hide in mattresses, box springs, bed frames, furniture, electrical outlets, wall hangings or any other crack or crevice.

WHAT ARE THE TELL-TALE SIGNS OF BEDBUGS?
Small black dots (feces) near hiding sites, eggs, shed skins, blood stains and small welts from bites often indicate the presence of bedbugs.

WHAT DO BEDBUG BITES LOOK LIKE?
Bites are usually red, itchy raised welts, often occurring in two or more bites in a row. Bites resemble many other insect bites and medical conditions.

HOW DO I TREAT BITES?
Contact your physician.

DO BEDBUGS SPREAD DISEASE?
Bedbugs are not known to spread disease.

IS THE MAINTENANCE PERSON ALLOWED TO SPRAY FOR BEDBUGS?
Only licensed exterminators are permitted to eradicate bedbugs. Contact the Ohio Department of Agriculture at 614-728-6987 if a licensed exterminator is not used.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY TENANTS MOVED OUT AND LEFT AN INFESTED UNIT?
Contact a lawyer. If you cannot afford one review the Ohio Revised Code 1923 and 5321.

CAN I GET OUT OF MY LEASE IF THERE ARE BEDBUGS?
Contact a lawyer to assist in arranging a 'Release' from the lease contract.

WHAT PESTICIDES CAN I USE?
Over-the-counter pesticides, bug bombs or insecticide foggers do not effectively eradicate bedbugs. Pesticides for home use will kill bedbugs only if sprayed directly on the bug. Do not apply pesticides on mattresses, couches or where children and pets play. It is recommended that a licensed exterminator apply pesticides.

DO I NEED TO THROW AWAY MY MATTRESSES AND FURNITURE?
No. Ask a pest control operator what you need to throw away; furniture may be treated. If you throw something away make sure it is labeled with "Bedbugs" so no one takes infected furniture into their home.

HOW CAN FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS AVOID BRINGING BEDBUGS FROM MY HOME TO THEIR HOME?

Until bedbugs are completely eradicated in your home, it is recommended that purses and bags are not brought inside; bedbugs can travel on these items. Avoid sitting on soft furniture like couches. Immediately upon returning home wash and dry your clothing or place it in a sealed bag until it can be washed or dried.

REMEDIES

INSPECT YOUR BEDROOM

- Remove everything from your bed, folding inwards towards the middle of the bed to prevent the spread of any bugs. Wash all linens before reuse in hot water and dry for 30 minutes on your dryer's highest heat setting.
- Check the mattress, seams, springs, bed frame and behind the headboard. Look for evidence of bedbugs such as their eggs, which are small and white, small black dots (feces) and actual bedbugs.
- Check under furniture and on the bottom of Where are bedbugs found? dresser drawers.

PREPARE THE INFECTED ROOM

• Bag/clean items. Put all infected clothing in sealed plastic bags until ready to wash, wash in hot water, and dry for 30 minutes on your dryer's highest heat setting. Store clean clothing and other items in sealed bags or containers. Non-washable items should be put in the dryer for 30 minutes.

• Vacuum the floor, mattress and baseboards. When you finish vacuuming, spread a small amount of talcum powder or corn starch on the floor and vacuum it up. Immediately dump the contents into a sealed bag or throw away the filter bag in an outdoor trash can. The powder or starch will make it too slippery for the bedbugs to crawl out of the bag.

• Cover your mattress. Put a cover on your mattress and put duct tape over the zipper flap. Leave the cover on for at least one year.

KEEP BEDBUGS OUT — MAKE YOUR BED AN ISLAND

- Buy "Climb up Interceptors" which are bedbug traps.
- Put your mattress and springs on a frame at least one foot off the floor.
- Pull your bed away from the wall.
- Remove bed skirts. Any bedding should not touch the floor.

CLEAN UP CLUTTER

- Clutter makes it difficult to clean and provides hiding places for bedbugs.
- Pick up, wash and bag all clothes and other items on the floor.

GET PROFESSIONAL HELP

- A licensed exterminator needs to be hired.
- Consult your landlord for apartment building treatment if multiple units are infested.

KEEP FROM GETTING BITES AT NIGHT

- Clean your mattress and bed frame.
- Cover mattress and box springs in a special cover.
- Wash your bed clothes frequently.
- Make your bed an island.

THE HEALTH DISTRICT DOES NOT OVERSEE OR ADDRESS ISSUES RELATED TO BEDBUG INFESTATIONS

For additional information and photos, visit

cdc.gov/bed-bugs