

A.R.T. NEWSLETTER

Bed Bugs are garnering a lot of attention. With our global economy and relative ease of travel around the world this hitchhiking insect is back on the rise infesting more and more locations nationwide. They are not just a problem at hotels: They are also a growing concern with cruise ships, universities, hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, military barracks, condominiums, apartments and residences.

Bed Bugs are the perfect hitchhiker traveling by packages, luggages, planes, trains, automobiles, you name it. Bed Bugs most commonly infest new locations by being carried there, hitchhiking on clothing, used furniture, second hand carpets or furniture and so on. If you sit on a bed bug infested couch or bed, a bed bug may crawl onto your clothing and then crawl out again once you're back at home or work. It is more likely, however, that bed bugs will crawl into a person's belongings. A person with a bed bug problem when visiting their neighbors or friends can carry bed bugs into their homes.

Bed bugs have certain characteristics which make them easier to identify. Adults are just under a quarter-inch long and are relatively flat, nearly as wide, as long, and oval in shape. The color is brown to reddish brown. The body has short golden hairs and exudes a "sickening sweet" smell from the glands to the body.

The first sign of bed bug infestation is the appearance of small brownish or reddish spots on bed linens. These are the fecal spots or droppings on the surface of linens. Occupants may also notice swelling and sometimes localized itching where they have been bitten. Merely washing bed linens or other infested areas might not eliminate the source. An infestation of bed bugs is NOT evidence of unclean or unsanitary living areas.

The first step of control is to have a professional thoroughly inspect the area. This inspection is required to determine the places where the bed bugs are living. Control methods include proper insecticide treatment of these areas as well as adjacent areas that are potentially infested.

Bed bugs are a nuisance to sleepers yet with proper treatment and cooperation between pest control technician and the resident, bed bugs can be eradicated from a residence.