



A & A
Pest Control, Inc.

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Portland, OR 97266
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BED BUGS

Adult bed bugs are brown to reddish brown, oval-shaped, flattened, and about 3/16 to 1/5 long. The body becomes more elongate, swollen, and dark red after a blood meal. Bed bugs have a beaklike piercing-sucking mouthpart system. The adults have small, stubby, nonfunctional wing pads. Newly hatched nymphs are nearly colorless, becoming brownish as they mature. Nymphs have the general appearance of adults. Eggs are white and about 1/32 inch long.

Female bed bugs lay from one to twelve eggs per day, and the eggs are deposited on rough surfaces or in cracks and crevices. The eggs are coated with a sticky substance so they adhere to the substrate. Eggs hatch in 6 to 17 days, and nymphs can immediately begin to feed. They require blood meal in order to molt. Bed bugs mature after 5 molts. Nymphs and adults can live for several months without food. The adults lifespan may encompass 12-18 months.

Bed bugs are fast moving insects that are nocturnal blood-feeders. They feed mostly at night when their host is asleep. After using their sharp beak to pierce the skin of the host, they inject a salivary fluid containing an anticoagulant that helps to obtain blood. Nymphs may become engorged with blood within 3 minutes, whereas a full-grown bed bug usually feeds for 10 or 15 minutes. Then they crawl away to a hiding place to digest the meal.

————— *Experience makes the difference* —————



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Bed bugs hide during the day in dark, protected sites. They seem to prefer fabric, wood, and paper surfaces. Bed bugs can initially be found in tufts, seams, and folds of mattresses, later spreading to crevices in the bedstead. In heavier infestations, they also may occupy hiding places farther from the bed. They may hide in window and door frames, electrical boxes, floor cracks, baseboards, furniture, and under the tack board of the carpeting. Bed bugs often crawl upward to hide in pictures, wall hangings, loosened wallpaper, cracks in plaster and ceiling moldings.

Once bed bugs are introduced into a room, they often spread room to room throughout the building. It is important that all adjoining units be inspected for any activity.

It is important that occupants work with us to gain control. Reducing clutter is a necessity. Belongings strewn about rooms afford many places for bed bugs to hide. Infested bedding and garments will need to be bagged (prior to their removal from the infested unit) and laundered in HOT WATER. Vacuuming can also be very useful for removing bed bugs and eggs from mattresses, carpet, walls and other surfaces. It is important that when the vacuuming is finished that the bag be removed, placed in a plastic bag and thrown in an outside garbage receptacle.

After the initial treatment it may be recommended that we follow up with another treatment in 1-2 weeks.

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