

Bed bugs are found all over the world and are constantly being dispersed via furniture, luggage and bedding. During the last decade, there has been a significant increase in the number of bed bug infestations reported in homes, hotels, apartments and cruise ships. Since 2005, there has been an increase in bed bugs reported in lodging establishments in Kansas. The challenge is to correctly identify bed bugs, prevent their spread, and eliminate bed bugs from lodging facilities.

HOW TO IDENTIFY BED BUGS

- Immature bed bugs are light yellow or tan in color.
- Adults are brown or reddish brown.
- Adults are 1/8th of an inch in size and can be seen by the naked eye.
- Bed bugs are wingless, oval and flattened in appearance and crawl at a steady rate.
- Bed bugs are active mainly at night. During the daytime, they prefer to hide close to where they sleep. Their flattened bodies enable them to fit into tiny crevices – especially those associated with mattresses, box springs, bed frames, and headboards. Characteristically these areas are marked by dark spotting and staining, which is dried excrement of the bugs.
- In hotels and motels, the area behind the headboard is often the first place that the bugs become established. Mattresses, upholstered chairs, and sofas should be checked carefully, including seams, tufts, skirts, and crevices. Nightstands and dressers should be emptied and examined inside and out, then tipped over to inspect the woodwork underneath. Other common places to find bed bugs include: along and under the edge of wall-to-wall carpeting; cracks in wood molding; ceiling-wall junctures; behind wall mounts and picture frames; and under loose wallpaper.



WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE BED BUGS

- Report the presence of bed bugs or bed bug evidence to the regulatory authority (KDA at 785-564-6767) upon discovery.
- Use a licensed pest control operator to treat bed bugs.
- Since bed bugs can disperse throughout a building, it also may be necessary to inspect adjoining rooms.
- Each guest room that is infested must be cleaned prior to reinspection.
- Do not rent guest rooms that are infested until the infestation is eliminated and the regulatory authority has conducted a follow-up inspection to verify elimination of bed bugs.

BED BUG HEALTH RISKS

- Bed bugs are spread to other facilities by guests and can be spread throughout your facility by guests and staff.
- Bed bugs feed by piercing the skin with an elongated beak through which they withdraw blood, causing itching and inflammation. Bed bugs usually bite people at night while they are sleeping. Severity depends upon the person. Many people develop an itchy red welt or localized swelling, which sometimes appears a day or so after the bite.
- A common concern with bed bugs is whether they transmit diseases. Although bed bugs can harbor pathogens in their bodies, transmission to humans is highly unlikely. Therefore, they are not considered a serious health threat. Their medical significance is mainly limited to the itching and inflammation from their bites.