

BED BUG DETECTION

Think you might have bed bugs? Find out where bed bugs hide and some of the tell-tale signs of bed bugs.

Where bed bugs hide:

- Despite their name, bed bugs do not live only in beds.
- Bed bugs are most often found near where they feed. You will usually find them within 5 feet of the places you spend long periods of time, such as your bed or couch.
- Bed bugs can hide in any crack or crevice they find. As an infestation grows, bed bugs spread further away from their main feeding area.
- Bed bugs can be found:
 - In the folds & tufts of mattresses
 - Near the piping, seams and tags of mattresses, box springs and pillows
 - Inside box springs
 - Behind headboards
 - In bed frames and furniture
 - In cracks and corners of dressers or night stands beside the bed
 - In any dark and hidden place!
- In a room that is heavily infested, you may find bed bugs:
 - In the seams of and between the cushions of chairs and couches
 - Behind wall pictures
 - Behind baseboards
 - In floor cracks
 - Inside switch plates, electrical outlets, clocks, computers, phones, televisions and smoke detectors
 - Where the wall and the ceiling meet



Signs of Bed Bugs:

Using a flashlight and magnifying glass, check for the following signs:

Feces and Fecal Stains

- Check for small black stains on your pillow case, sheets, mattress or box spring. Bed bug feces ("poop") leave dark stains that look like they were made with a fine tip marker.

Blood Stains and Smears

- Check for blood spots on sheets, pillow cases or mattresses. These stains are the result of blood-filled bed bugs being crushed when you roll over while they are feeding.

Shed Bed Bug Skins

- Check for cast skins that look like light colored empty bug shells. As young bed bugs (nymphs) move toward adulthood, they shed their skin 5 times before reaching maturity.

Bed Bug Eggs

- Check for eggs. Bed bug eggs are about the size of a pinhead (about 1mm) and pearl-white in color.

Bed Bug Bites

- Check for bed bug bites. Bites on the skin can be an indicator of a bed bug infestation; however reactions to bites vary greatly between people.

Sometimes bites produce itchy, red welts that look like mosquito bites. The bites may show up in a grouping of three, in a line or cluster of bites or they can also be scattered in no recognizable pattern. Bed bug bites can look like bites from other insects (such as mosquitoes or fleas), rashes (such as eczema or fungal infections), or even hives. Some people do not react to bed bug bites at all.

Bed Bug Sightings

- Visual confirmation of live bed bugs is the best indication of bed bugs. Bed bugs can be easily confused with other small household insects, including carpet beetles, spider beetles and newly hatched cockroaches.

If you think your apartment has bed bugs, contact your building manager immediately.

The sooner everyone responds, the more successful everyone will be in getting rid of these unwanted pests

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For more information on bed bugs, visit www.hamilton.ca/bedbugs