

A Bug's Life

Bed bug

Cimex Lectularius

Fun facts

- Feed on blood while host is sleeping, but do not live on the body
- Hitchhike on belongings, use humans to spread to new hosts and locations
- Hide close to host resting areas
- Some people have no reaction to bites, others will get bumps or welts
- Do not spread disease

Identification

Signs: Live bugs, dead bugs, shed exoskeletons, black fecal marks
Bed bug: Wingless, reddish-brown, flat oval-shaped, 1/4" long as adult and smaller if immature, long segmented antennae, beaklike mouthpart on underside of body, when engorged turn a deep red color

Management

- Inspect belongings before bringing back inside after traveling
- Some items can be dried in clothes dryer high heat 30 min
- Vacuum carpets and furniture
- Contact professional services for treatment options, which may include heat and/or insecticides



Photos: J. Green