

How to Identify a Bed Bug Infestation

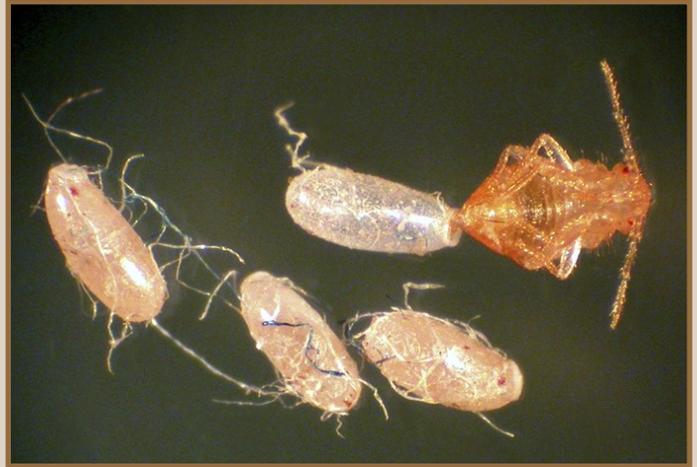
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Bed bugs are blood feeding pests that can take up residence in our homes and can prove to be frustrating to deal with. Luckily, there are signs and symptoms we can be on the lookout for in our beds or even in hotel rooms to identify bed bug infestations. While bed bugs are small they are visible to the naked eye. Adults are near 1/4th inch in length and are comparable to the size of sesame or green pepper seeds. Bed bugs are an orange-red color. Immature bed bugs are between 1/25th of an inch and 1/5th of an inch.



Adult bed bug

Adults are under 1/4 in. long (4-5 mm). Usually compared to the size of a sesame seed. Their body is flattened (unless they recently fed) and is orange-red



Immature bed bug & eggs

Bed bug eggs are shaped like rice but are closer in size to grains of sugar. Nymphs are small and hard to detect but do take blood meals

Where can you find bed bugs?

Bed bugs often dwell on mattresses, bed frames, couch cushions, box springs, and other spaces where people rest or sleep.. You may also find them living behind baseboards and electrical wall outlets or decorations that hang on the wall.

What are you looking for when inspecting?

People may first notice red, itchy welts on their skin as an indicator that something is feeding on them. To inspect for bed bugs look for active, red-orange adults in the above listed places. You may also look for signs of bed bugs such as their dried fecal material on the side of the mattress. Bed bugs defecate blood droplets so this symptom looks like red and black dried scabs on the bed. You may also find shed skins from the insect which are orange-yellow in color and look like old popcorn hulls. Some people also note a distinctive odor associated with bed bugs that smells like coriander spice.



What do you do if you find bed bugs?

You should contact a professional exterminator for treatment, or your local extension office for tips on how to treat your home.