

DAY-TO-DAY PREVENTION

- Be careful when traveling. Bed Bugs are excellent hitchhikers
- Change and wash bedding regularly.
- Do not bring second-hand furniture into your home unless you have thoroughly inspected and cleaned the items first.
- Reduce clutter

TRAVEL TIPS

- Inspect mattresses and headboards with a flashlight
- Keep bags, luggage and backpacks off the bed. Inspect and use a luggage rack
- Never place clothes or jackets on a bed or couch. Do not store clothes in dressers
- If you're concerned about exposure after travel, seal all items in plastic bags until washing and treating
- Unpack clothes directly into the washer and dryer
- Inspect your luggage closely with a flashlight and magnifying glass for bed bugs upon returning home



HOW TO HIRE A PEST CONTROL OPERATOR

- Call several licensed and insured companies, compare services and get written estimates.
- Insist on and check references
- Look for companies:
 - Offering an IPM solution
 - Offering Both chemical and non-chemical treatment options
 - Providing a pre-treatment checklist
 - Performing a pre-treatment inspection
 - Recommending interceptors and encasements
 - Offering 2 or more service visits and follow-ups

**Do you have questions
about bed bugs?
Call the Stark County
Health Department at
330-493-9904**



BED BUG

IDENTIFICATION

- Tiny, white eggs glued to surfaces
- Nymphs are light colored from 1/16th of an inch
- Adults are rusty red, apple seed sized, 3/8th of an inch
- Bed bugs don't jump or fly but are good runners
- They tend to congregate together
- They can live several months with no blood meal

Environmental Services
330-493-9904 | starkhealth.org



SIGNS OF BED BUGS

- Small whitish shed skins and rusty spots on bed linens which are droppings and blood stains
- Live bed bugs of any size
- Eggs and casings among droppings or in crevices where adults hide
- An offensive, sweet, musty odor from the bed bugs when infestations are severe
- You may have red itchy welts or rashes from bites
 - Bite marks are not an indication of a bed bug infestation



FAQs

1. Are bed bugs a public health nuisance?
No, they do not transmit disease.
2. Does the Stark County Health Department respond to residential bed bug complaints? No, we do not have legal authority to send a public health order for bed bug extermination.
3. Is my landlord responsible for bed bug treatment? No, but tenants are encouraged to review their lease agreement and reach out to Stark Fair Housing at 330-451-7775 for guidance.



WHERE DO BED BUGS HIDE?

- Mattresses, box springs, bed frames and head boards (along seams and piping, under handles and labels)
- Under the thin dust cloth on the bottom of box springs
- Seams and fabric folds in curtains and under furniture including chairs and sofas
- Under wall-to-wall carpeting and padding
- Anywhere with cracks, crevices or nail holes in walls, and under wood moldings and baseboards
- Under loose wallpaper and seams and where ceiling and wall meet
- In and behind picture frames and mirrors
- Clothing and clutter stored in closets, under beds and elsewhere
- Inside switchplates, electrical outlets, clocks, computers, phones, televisions and smoke detectors
- On and in recently used luggage, backpacks and bags

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

PHYSICAL CONTROL METHODS

- Vacuuming reduces bed bug populations
 - Clean and vacuum bed bug prone areas daily
 - Immediately seal and dispose of the vacuum bag
 - Install encasements on your mattress and box springs
 - Install bed bug interceptors under bed and furniture legs
 - Make the bed an island. Keep bed away from wall and do not let bedding touch the floor
 - Remove clutter where bed bugs can hide
 - Isolate infested items in sealed plastic bags or containers
 - Treat items in a hot dryer for 30 minutes
 - Clean and scrub seams/folds with detergent
 - Seal cracks where bed bugs can hide
 - If you live in an apartment or other multi-family dwelling, and you see a bed bug, contact your landlord immediately
- ## NON-CHEMICAL CONTROLS
- Items that can't be washed or dried may be steamed, heated or frozen using specialized equipment
 - Raising the indoor temperature with or thermostat or space heaters will NOT work
 - Do NOT place items in your home freezer either. Contact a bed bug management professional for advice