

Prevention / Elimination

- Vacuum around sleeping areas frequently. After vacuuming, immediately place the vacuum cleaner contents in a plastic bag, seal, and place in the garbage outdoors
- Replace wood bed frames with metal
- Eliminate head boards
- Use white or light colored sheets
- Paint wood furniture white and fill in gaps with caulk
- Vinyl-covered or seamless mattresses are best; encase mattresses and box springs with a zippered cover
- Repair peeling paint and use light color paint, repair wallpaper
- Clean/organize living areas and reduce clutter
- Caulk or seal cracks and crevices around the room and on furniture
- Wash and dry on the HOTTEST setting possible all clothing, shoes, blankets, plush toys, etc.
- Keep sorted and laundered items away from items which have not been inspected

Cleaning infested areas is helpful in controlling Bed Bugs, however, getting rid of Bed Bugs usually requires professional treatment. It is safest and most effective to hire an experienced licensed pest control company for Bed Bug extermination.



Who to call if you find Bed Bugs

If you find Bed Bugs in your rental property or public accommodation:



- 1) Contact the landlord or property owner to notify them of the problem and request licensed pest control.
- 2) If licensed pest control is not provided, you may contact the Department to file a complaint. This can be done by calling **602-506-6616** or visiting esd.maricopa.gov.
- 3) Once a complaint is filed, the Department contacts the property owner or landlord to ensure license pest control is provided.
- 4) If the property owner or landlord fails to provide licensed pest control then the Department may pursue legal action against the property owner.



MCESD is not pest control and will not treat for Bed Bugs. The landlord/property owner must contact a licensed pest control company.

If you own your home or property please contact a pest control professional.



Working with our community
to ensure a safe and healthy environment

Rev.6/2015



MARICOPA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Bed Bugs



Female



Male

ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

1001 N. Central Ave.
Suite 150
Phoenix, AZ 85004
E-mail: esd@mail.maricopa.gov

(602) 506-6616
esd.maricopa.gov

What are Bed Bugs?

Bed Bugs are small, oval, reddish-brown insects. Adult Bed Bugs have flat bodies about the size of an apple seed. Bed Bugs do not fly, but they can move quickly.



When and how do they feed?

Bed Bugs generally feed at night. They are attracted by warmth and carbon dioxide.

They feed by piercing the skin with two tubes: one injects saliva, while the other withdraws blood. The average Bed Bug life span is 6 to 12 months but they can survive many months without a blood meal.



Are Bed Bugs a public health nuisance?

Although they are considered a public health nuisance, they do not transmit disease. Bed Bug bites can cause discomfort, skin rashes, irritation and possibly allergic reactions. Heavy infestations have been known to cause anemia in the very young and elderly.



How do they get into our homes or facilities?

Bed Bugs are known to be great hitchhikers. Bed Bugs may enter your home undetected on luggage, new or used clothing and furniture, and even on people.



Bed Bugs move around and may infest multiple rooms in a home or multiple units in apartment buildings.

Signs of Infestation

Signs that you may have Bed Bugs include:

- Itchy skin areas that were exposed during sleep
- Blood stains on pillowcases / sheets
- Shed skins of Bed Bugs
- Bed Bug fecal matter (black or reddish-brown spots) on sheets, mattress, or walls



Example of Bed Bug fecal matter stains on mattress

Checking for Bed Bugs

Bed Bugs are usually found close to sleeping areas, generally in cracks and crevices.

Where to look for Bed Bugs:

- Peel back bed sheets
- Check the mattress seams & tag
- Bed frames
- Box springs
- Behind the head-board
- Furniture close to sleeping areas
- Baseboards
- Wallpaper
- Switch plates
- Outlet Covers
- Curtains
- Couches
- Chairs
- Under carpets

