

February 22, 2011

Bed Bugs Fact Sheet

1. **What are Bed Bugs?** - Bed bugs are small insects that feed on human blood. They are usually active at night when people are sleeping. Adult bed bugs have flat, rusty-red-colored oval bodies. About the size of an apple seed, they are big enough to be easily seen, but often hide in cracks in furniture, floors, or walls. When bed bugs feed, their bodies swell and become brighter red. They can live for several months without food or water.
2. **What does a Bed Bug bite feel and look like?** - Most bed bug bites are initially painless, but later turn into large, itchy skin welts. These welts do not have a red spot in the center like flea bites.
3. **Are Bed Bug bites dangerous?** - Although bed bugs are a nuisance, they are not known to spread disease.
4. **How does a room become infested with Bed Bugs?** - In most cases, people carry bed bugs into their homes unknowingly, in luggage, furniture, bedding, or clothing. Bed bugs may also travel through small crevices and cracks in walls and floors.
5. **How do I know if my home is infested with Bed Bugs?** - You may notice itchy skin welts. You may also see the bed bugs themselves, small bloodstains from crushed insects, or dark spots from their droppings. It is often hard to see them because they hide in or near beds, other furniture, and in cracks.
6. **How do I get rid of Bed Bugs?** – A licensed pest control professional is necessary to get rid of bed bugs.
7. **The pest control company should:**
 - a. Inspect your home to confirm the presence of Bed Bugs.
 - b. Find and eliminate their hiding places.
 - c. Treat your home with special cleaning and/or pesticides if necessary.
 - d. Make return visits to make sure Bed Bugs are gone.
8. **For more information about Bed Bugs:** <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/eid/vol11no04/04-1126.htm>



This fact sheet provides general information. Please contact your physician for specific clinical information.