

CALIFORNIA AMERICAN

EXTERMINATOR

BED BUG FACT SHEET



about us

With excellent service in the pest control industry, California American Exterminator is the trusted Bay Area company for your extermination needs.

Our company understands that bed bugs are a sensitive issue that requires property, tenant, and pest control cooperation. We work alongside you to develop a bed bug treatment plan specified for your property's needs.

about bed bugs

Bed bugs are becoming an increasingly more common pest. They're found on every populated continent and in all 50 states quickly reaching a pandemic level. Bed bugs require a blood meal to molt, mate, and survive. If meals become scarce, they can slow their life process until a source is found, often surviving several months without a meal.

The color of an adult bed bug can vary from brown to reddish brown. Bed bug nymphs are much smaller and the first instars are light yellow in color. They become darker and larger as they complete the instar stages.

Adult bed bugs are about the size and shape of an apple seed or lentil. Bed bug nymphs (baby bed bugs) are about the size, shape and color of a sesame seed.



Adults are just under a 1/4" long and are relatively flat, nearly as wide as long, and oval in shape compared to most other insects.

A female bed bug can lay more than 500 eggs over her lifetime with an average of 3 to 5 eggs per day. She drops these eggs anywhere she frequents; linens, mattresses, couches, books, etc.

It is crucial to note that bed bugs are not just in beds. They can be in suitcases, chairs, sofas, behind electrical outlets, baseboards, in clothes, toys or even on and behind picture frames.

do you know how to spot a bed bug infestation?

- **Fecal marks**

If you see dark red or brown-looking peppered stains, this could be bed bug excrement. You'll notice it will be in areas that bed bugs frequent like mattresses and baseboards.

- **Smear marks**

If you notice a rusty red smear on a bed or mattress, this could be a smeared bug.

- **Eggs**

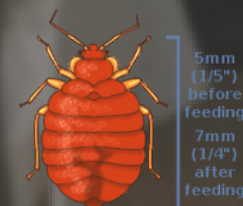
Eggs and shed exoskeletons, which are tiny (about 1mm) and pale yellow skins that nymphs shed as they grow larger. These will also be evident in areas where bed bugs congregate.

- **Odor**

Heavy infestations are usually accompanied by a sweet "buggy" odor that is sometimes described as a wet towel odor.

- **Live bugs**

The most tell-tale sign of a bed bug infestation is the evidence of live bugs themselves. Any stage of bed bug, from nymph to adult, can point to a larger infestation.



treatment

In order to control any bed bug infestation, it is crucial to use an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach. This requires tenants to thoroughly de-clutter to limit harborage areas for bed bugs. All of the resident's clothes and linens should be dried on high heat for 30 minutes to kill all stages of the bed bugs. These items should then be placed in a clean, heavy-duty, and air-tight garbage bag which will remain sealed for the duration of the treatment



process. It is recommended that the tenant leave a few items of clothing and linens out during the treatment process. Our company will thoroughly inspect a unit to determine the severity of the infestation.

Once a unit has been confirmed to have bed bugs, all surrounding units - even vacant ones - should be inspected for any evidence of bed bugs. Bed bugs can move between wall voids, through doors, and down interior hallways infesting neighboring units.

Vacant units should not be cleaned or painted until the treatment process has been completed or cleared of bed bugs, as this can cause the bugs to spread.

prevention

Please note that there are currently no over-the-counter products that will effectively control bed bugs, therefore self-treating is strongly discouraged as it can potentially cause bed bugs to spread to new areas and units.

everyday bed bug prevention tips



Travel

- Pull back hotel bed sheets and inspect the mattress seams for stains, spots or bugs. Also check behind the headboard and in sofas/chairs.
- Immediately notify management of any signs of bed bugs and ask for a new room. Ensure the new room is not adjacent and/or directly above/below the original room. Bed bugs can easily hitchhike via housekeeping carts, luggage and even through wall sockets.
- Place luggage in a plastic trash bag or protective cover during the duration of the trip to keep bed bugs out.



Home

- Inspect luggage before bringing it into the house and vacuum it thoroughly before putting it away.
- Dry all fabric items (even those that have not been worn) in a hot dryer for at least 30 minutes to ensure that any bed bugs that may have made it that far are not placed into your drawers/closet.

Bed bugs are not a pest that can be controlled with do-it-yourself measures. California American Exterminator has an effective treatment program to control bed bugs. We offer both conventional treatments and heat remediation. Residents are a key component to the control of bed bug infestations. Control can only be achieved when we all work together!

questions

Feel free to call our office to discuss treatment options and identify the bed bug issue your property is facing.



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join the conversation



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