

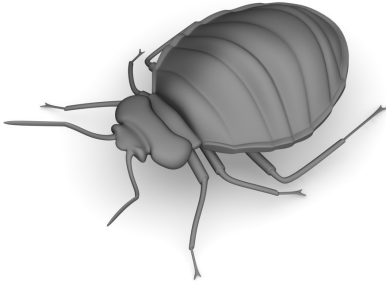
FACT SHEET

Bed Bugs

Cimex Lectularius



Bed Bugs are a small, flat, reddish coloured insect of about 6mm length. During the day they hide in crevices in furniture, bed frames, skirting boards etc., and at night they come out to feed. Unfortunately, they feed on human blood, and they will also bite pet animals.



The signs of bed bugs are bites on the body (some people can get a severe allergic reaction), little black dots on wallpaper near the bed (bed bug excrement), and cast skins which look like little empty Bed Bugs. The skins are cast because Bed Bugs outgrow their skin about 5 times before becoming mature adults and with each moult the old skin is left behind. Bed bugs are becoming increasingly common and they are easily transferred from one house to another in furniture, bedding or luggage. They need a little warmth to breed, so they will not develop in very cold rooms or outhouses.

However, they can live for up to a year without food, so even furniture that has been in a cold room for several months can come alive when the heating is turned up. Bed bugs only come out to feed during the hours of darkness, and spend the rest of the time in hiding. Simply spraying around the bed with a can of insecticide will not remove the infestation.

Are They Really Bed Bugs?

There are some very similar insects which affect birds' nests and which sometimes enter houses (martin bugs). Positive identification is needed before any treatment is carried out.

What Can Be Done to Control Them?

Certainly call a professional to deal with bed bug infestations. An inspection of the house to locate all the hiding places is essential. The most likely rooms to be affected will be bedrooms, but other rooms may be affected, particularly if pets or children sleep in them. The most suitable treatment will usually be to spray the walls, furniture and skirting boards in affected rooms.

After That?

Regular changing and washing of bed linen will help a little in the control of bed bugs, although they generally hide in the frame of the bed and not in the sheets. Dry cleaning of linen is the preferred measure rather than domestic washing machines. If you do choose to clean bedding at home wash your linens at the hottest temperature you feel comfortable with and in line with the manufacturer's guidelines. If you are afraid that will ruin your linens, wash them in the hottest temperature possible and dry them in a hot dryer (140°F) for 20 minutes. This includes all linens, sheets, pillows, pillowcases, bed skirts and blankets. Regular vacuum cleaning, particularly of the mattress, and along the edges of skirting boards, door frames and the sides and back of the bed will also help, but again will not eradicate the infestation. Be wary of buying second-hand beds or mattresses as these can be harbouring infestations of bed bugs.



For any treatment to be effective there are certain actions you the householder needs to take before and after any treatment provided, all responsible pest control companies will advise you what you must do.



Ubico Limited ♦ WODC Depot ♦ Avenue Four ♦ Witney ♦ OX28 4BN

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Schedule 1

Terms Specific to Bedbugs Treatments

1. Our Service is to attend your premises, inspect the relevant area and treat the active insect habitat with the intention of eradicating the insects.
2. The price of the Service is for treating a 3 bedroom residential house. An additional fee will be charged for each additional room or car that requires treatment or if the premises are occupied by more than 1 family.
3. Before your agreed appointment time, we require you to carry out the following preparatory work throughout the whole premises:
 - a. Cover and seal up any fish tanks.
 - b. All beds should be stripped and contents from underneath the bed removed, duvets and all clothing and soft items removed from cupboards and wardrobes and placed sealed in plastic bags. These articles must then be laundered at over 60° C prior to re-use.
 - c. All furniture such as wardrobes and cupboards must be moved away from the wall to enable spraying, all drawers or doors must be unlocked and open.
 - d. All floors and areas to be treated must be clear of any items with carpets hovered, including bed frames and behind furniture that has been moved ready for treatment and the bag or contents of the vacuum be emptied.
 - e. All pictures, posters, calendars taken off the wall, curtains removed and where possible curtain poles removed
 - f. Shelves and bookcases need to be emptied
 - g. All electrical equipment and cables and wiring covered with plastic bags
4. On arrival at the premises, we shall determine, at our absolute discretion, whether the premises has been sufficiently prepared
 - a. If we determine that it has been well prepared, we shall treat it in accordance with the terms of this agreement.
 - b. If we determine that it has been reasonably prepared, we shall treat it but you will be charged for any additional visits, as the treatment will be compromised. Alternatively, you could choose to re-book the appointment at no extra cost (provided that this is the first time the treatment is re-booked; otherwise we will charge you for the visit).
 - c. If we determine that it has not been reasonably prepared, we shall refuse to treat it. In this event, we will offer you the opportunity to book an alternative appointment at no extra cost.
5. You must advise us on arrival and before any treatment is commenced if there is any reason why the property cannot be sprayed with an approved insecticide.

Limitation of Our Liability - Please Read

By booking in an appointment, you acknowledge that, we do not accept any liability for any loss or damage caused as a result of the use of insecticide.

6. You must leave the property during treatment and remain outside sprayed areas for at least 4 hours to enable the applied insecticide to dry and to avoid inhalation of any mist. If you re-enter the premises within this time, the treatment will be compromised
7. After the treatment has been carried out and the 4 hour period has passed, you must continue to use the treated areas as you did before for at least 14 days afterwards. This is to provide a natural environment for the insects to feed on, and therefore use, the treated area.
8. You must not hover or wash down any non food preparation surfaces for a period to two weeks after the treatment was carried out.
9. We reserve the right to decline to carry out the treatment if we believe that it may be unsafe to access or treat the area.
10. No re-call as shall be undertaken within the first two weeks after the treatment is carried out and must be within one month of the initial treatment

