

# Bed Bugs

## What are bed bugs?

Bed bugs are small insects that feed on human blood.

They are flat, oval, reddish-brown and wingless.



Photo credit: University of Minnesota Extension

The adult is about ¼ of an inch long and looks somewhat like a wood tick.

After the bed bug has taken a blood meal, its color will change from brown to purplish-red and the body of the bed bug becomes larger and more cigar-shaped.

Young bed bugs (or nymphs) are much smaller - about 1/16 inch long when they first hatch.

Nymphs are nearly colorless, and become bright red after feeding.

## Early detection is key to preventing infestations

Train all hotel staff to watch for bed bugs.

Staff who handle luggage or linens could spot bed bugs and head off an infestation in its early stages.

Train housekeeping staff to look for signs of infestation every time they clean a room.

This includes inspecting beds, baseboards, bedding and luggage stands for:

- Live adult or young bed bugs.
- Empty shells (or skins) that bed bugs cast off as they grow.
- Black spots of feces – like grains of black pepper - in areas near the feeding site or where the bed bugs hide.
- Small blood stains on sheets or mattresses.

## How can I control an infestation?

In case of an infestation, use the Response Kit for Hotels at

<https://www.bedbugs.umn.edu/response-kit-hotels>

The Response Kit has information on identifying bed bugs, hiring a pest control company, and other helpful tips.

## Recommendations if a guest complains

- Immediately offer the guest a new room.
- Offer to launder or dry clean the guest’s clothes.
- If guests are given another room, that room should be inspected before and after their stay.
- Confirm you have bed bugs.
- Have a pest control professional perform a complete inspection and treatment of the room.

**For more information** contact the University of Minnesota Extension Bed Bug information line at **612-624-2200**, [bedbugs@umn.edu](mailto:bedbugs@umn.edu) or visit [www.bedbugs.umn.edu](http://www.bedbugs.umn.edu)

Information is available in multiple languages.

[www.minneapolismn.gov/Health](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/Health)

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact Minneapolis Environmental Health at [food@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:food@minneapolismn.gov) or 612-673-2301. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users can call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626.

Para asistencia 612-673-2700, Yog xav tau kev pab, hu 612-673-2800, Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500.