

Bedbugs

What are bedbugs?

Bedbugs are small insects (adults are about ¼ inch long) that feed on the blood of humans and animals. Adults are reddish-brown in color and larva or nymphs are a clear-yellowish color, but when they feed, their bodies swell and become bright red. They can be found in homes, apartments, hotels, hospitals, and other dwellings.

How are bedbugs spread?

Bedbugs are usually carried into settings on items like furniture, clothing, bags, and luggage. They may be picked up while spending time in other locations infested with *bedbugs*, or while traveling to a hotel or motel infested with *bedbugs*.

What are the symptoms of bedbugs?

Bedbugs cause itchy raised red bumps or flat welts in previously unexposed patients. They are known to cause allergic reactions from their saliva in sensitive people.

What is the treatment for bedbugs?

Treatment for bedbugs is symptomatic, ranging from anti-inflammatory topical corticosteroid preparations, oral antihistamines, and antibacterial agents for secondary infections.

Do bedbugs cause disease?

Although *bedbugs* may be a nuisance to people, they are not known to spread disease.

How do healthcare settings get rid of bedbugs?

Because *bedbugs* are difficult to exterminate, a *bedbug* infestation is best handled by a licensed, professional pest control company. A careful inspection must be conducted and all possible hiding places within infested and adjoining rooms examined. Professionals will use special tools, equipment, and insecticides to eliminate them from the setting.

For more information regarding *bedbugs*, visit the following resource:

http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/Publications/Bed_Bugs_CDC-EPA_Statement.htm