

Bed Bugs

Bed Bugs

Where Do Bed Bugs Come From?

Bed bugs can be found in apartments, hotels, homes, shelters, dormitories and nursing homes. They are active travelers, usually transported in luggage, boxes, clothing, furniture and even hair. Infestations are not tied to unsanitary living conditions; even world-class hotels have reported bed bug problems.

Where to Look

Check for bed bugs on the seams, tufts, or folds of mattresses, bed frames and head boards. Bed bugs may also be behind baseboards, pictures, frames, windows, door casings, loosened wall paper, curtains, cracks in plaster and behind electrical wall plates.

How Do I Know if I Have Bed Bugs?

Usually the first sign of a bed bug infestation is the appearance of small rusty spots on your mattresses and bed linens. These are bed bug droppings and blood spots. Bed bugs feed on any bare skin exposed while sleeping.

Red itchy welts are an indication of an infestation.

Bed bug bites occur when the bed bug is actually drawing blood. It may take as long as 14 days for a welt to appear from the bed bug bite. The infected person should resist the urge to scratch the bites as this may intensify the itching and cause an infection.

Some people have a reaction to bed bug bites and may need to seek medical assistance. Bed bugs are not known to transmit any diseases to humans.

How can I get rid of bed bugs?

Complete elimination of a bed bug infestation may be difficult without using a licensed, knowledgeable pest management company. It may take several treatments and methods over several weeks to gain control of an infestation. Do-it-yourself measures sometimes cause problems because of misuse of pesticides or scattering of bugs. If you try to do it yourself, make sure product is for bed bugs and read the label completely.

What should I do?

- Reduce clutter to eliminate hiding places and help with treatment.
- Vacuum areas where bed bugs have been seen, including mattresses and box springs. Dispose of vacuumed contents in a sealed bag.
- Cover mattress and box spring with zippered encasements, and seal any openings with tape so bed bugs can't get through.
- Wash bedding and clothing in hot water (120°F) and put in dryer for a full high temperature cycle. Store items in sealed bags.
- Inspect any furniture being brought into your home for bed bugs.

REFERENCES

- Jones, Susan. "Ohio State University Extension Fact Sheet-Bed Bugs." The Ohio State University. Jan 2007 <<http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/2000/2105.html>>.
- Potter, Michael. "University of Kentucky Entomology BED BUGS." University of Kentucky Entomology. Jan 2007 <<http://www.ca.uky.edu/entomology/entfacts/ef636.asp>>.
- Cincinnati Health Department, 3101 Burnet Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45229 <www.cincinnati-oh.gov>

729 Clay Street, Darlington, WI 53530 608-776-4895

www.lafayettecountywi.org/healthdepartment



- [Bed Bugs -- Frequently Asked Questions](#)

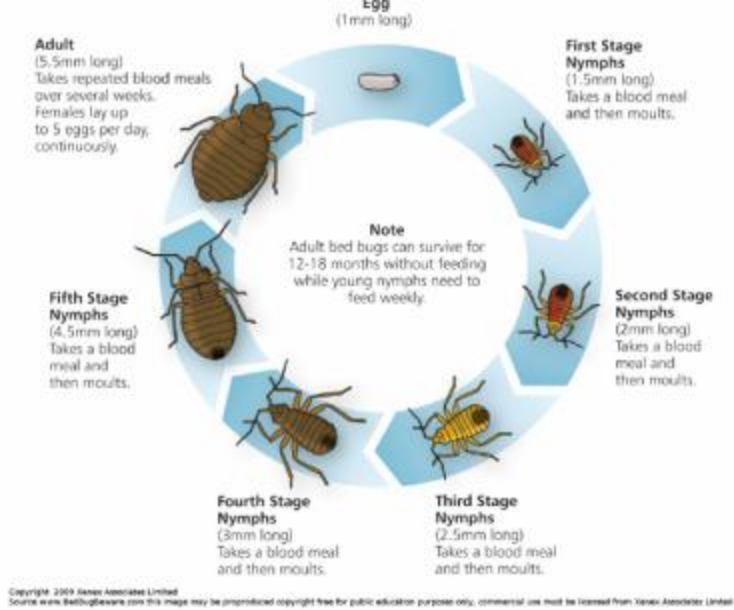
The following companies indicated that they have the equipment and expertise to address bed bugs in Lafayette County. The list is not all inclusive and is for information only. The Lafayette County Health Department cannot endorse any companies (or pay for services). We would suggest getting references, asking about guarantees, and checking with agencies such as the Better Business Bureau (608) 268-BBB1 (2221) and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture and Consumer Protection (800-422-7128) before purchasing services.

Aable Pest Control 1-800 369-2847

Orkin 723-4720, 375-4773, 348-7507

Plunkett's Pest Control 348-2100





[View Slideshow](#)