What are Bed Bugs?

Bed bugs are parasitic insects that feed on the blood of humans. Adult bed bugs look similar to an apple seed, and are small (approximately ¼ inch long), oval in shape, and are reddish-brown in color. Juvenile bed bugs, known as nymphs, differ from adults in that they are often much smaller (1 millimeter) and may appear clear or tan in color. Bed bugs prefer to live in protected areas near to where people sleep or rest for periods of time, such as the seams of mattresses, behind headboards and baseboards, or inside furniture. It is also common to find bed bugs in high-traffic areas where people are present, such as busses, trains, airports, movie theaters, and office buildings.

How Do You Get Bed Bugs?

Bed bugs are adept hitchhikers. They travel in luggage, on clothing, and inside furniture or other items that have been in infested areas. They are found in homes, apartment & office buildings, hotels, train cars, airplanes and many other places where people are at rest for a period of time. In multiple unit housing facilities bed bugs will often infest surrounding units and in single family homes it is also common for bed bugs to be found in living rooms as well as bedrooms and laundry areas.
How Do I Know If I Have Bed Bugs?

While bed bugs are visible to the naked eye, they are most active at night, and due to their cryptic nature they are not often seen during the day. Because bed bugs are small and flat, they are able to squeeze into tiny cracks and crevices on the mattress and box spring, behind headboards, and inside furniture, sometimes making them virtually undetectable. With the exception of seeing live or dead bed bugs, one common sign is the presence of dark ink-like stains on the mattress or bedding materials and on furniture itself. Skins that are shed from bed bugs during the molting process may also be found near to where they hide. It is important to know and understand that while some people show symptoms resulting from bed bug bites, many will observe no symptoms at all.

How Can You Get Rid of Bed Bugs?

There are a number of methods to treat for bed bugs. Common practices include the use of residual insecticide applications, exposure to extreme temperatures, or fumigation. It is important to know that in many situations a combination of procedures may be used to ensure the highest efficacy in eliminating bed bugs—as when used alone, some products and procedures may not be effective on all stages of bed bugs.

An advanced technology known as Thermal Remediation (heat treatment) is a safe, efficient and effective solution for the control of bed bugs. Specialized mobile heating units are used within bed bug infested areas to heat and maintain air temperatures between 120°F to 135°F—the temperature range known to kill all stages of bed bug development.
THE HEAT TREATMENT PROCESS

Preparation

American Pest will provide you with the instructions necessary to prepare for your upcoming Heat Treatment. Proper preparation is an important step for ensuring effective results. Personal items that are unable to withstand temperatures exceeding 120°F, such as some electrical devices, aerosol cans, medications, candles, and musical instruments should be removed from the treatment area.

The Application of Heat

Specialized mobile heating units (and high-powered fans used to distribute the heat evenly) will be placed inside bed bug infested areas and used to maintain temperatures above 120°F. Specially trained American Pest technicians will maintain heat saturation in bed bug infested areas by monitoring temperature levels via strategically placed electronic sensors. In an effort to ensure consistent heat saturation known to kill bed bugs and their eggs, items throughout the treatment area may be rotated or moved during the single-day process.

Guaranteed Results

Thermal remediation (heat treatment) technology is proven to kill the entire life cycle of bed bugs--from eggs to adults--inside infested areas. To provide lasting protection, American Pest will often apply a noninvasive, residual insecticide (in conjunction with heat treatment) in an effort to prevent re-infestation.
EXAMPLE OF AMERICAN'S HEAT TREATMENT PROCESS
Thermal remediation is the preferred treatment process for the complete elimination of Bed Bugs.

**Effective**
It kills all stages of bed bug life, including the eggs.

**Safe**
It is a safe and environmentally responsible solution.

**Efficient**
The process takes only one day and only one treatment is required.

**How Much Does a Heat Treatment Cost?**

Several factors impact the cost of thermal remediation treatments, including the severity of the infestation and the number and sizes of the rooms that need to be treated. For a friendly, no-obligation estimate, customized to your unique situation, please contact American Pest today (see page 7).

**How Do I Schedule a Heat Treatment?**

Scheduling a bed bug heat treatment is easy—simply contact American Pest (see page 7) to request a needs assessment and to schedule treatment. At American Pest, we pride ourselves on our speed and delivery of service. For that reason we aspire to take care of the problem as quickly as possible and with the sensitivity and professionalism you can always count on.
About American Pest

At American Pest, we’ve been protecting businesses and homes from menacing pests for over 85 years. As a company we’re proud of our employees, our strength in accomplishment, and our long tradition of excellence serving the Washington DC area. American Pest is truly a client-driven organization—having been built on the philosophy of delivering prompt, courteous service at a fair price. What this means is that you can depend on American Pest to apply significant resources and innovative methods towards managing pests, and to utilize safe and cost-effective pest management programs.

American Pest’s Non-Disclosure Statement

At American Pest, we understand your brand reputation is of utmost importance, which is why client confidentiality is our number one priority. American Pest professionals will maintain your privacy from the very first contact and in all practices and procedures during the normal course of doing business with you. To that end, we take every relationship seriously and will extend our policy of confidentiality to all of our clients.

Contact American Pest

1-888-678-4276
www.americanpest.net

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