

# The importance of maintaining constant vigilance

Once established, bed bugs are capable of reproducing rapidly. Over a 2 month period they can lay between 200-500 eggs. They can even survive for up to a year without a blood feed.

## Stage 1

(Egg)

Eggs from 200-500 laid over a 2 month period in batches of 10 to 50

1

Stage 3  
(Adults)

Adult is primarily nocturnal and also feeds off human blood

3

Stage 2  
(Nymph)

Nymph stage feeds off human blood

2

Without proper care and attention, infestations can also spread readily from the source to adjacent bedrooms, until potentially every room in the hotel is affected.

## What to do next?

1. Report infestation to management and/or owner of hotel.
2. Do not re-let room until the problem has been remedied.
3. Establish exclusion zone. To prevent the infestation spreading, the rooms either side of the infested bedroom and those directly adjacent in the floors above and below, need to be inspected for signs of an occurrence of bed bugs, with remedial action carried out, if necessary.
4. Collect all bedding in a sealed bag and have dry cleaned or washed to a temperature of 60 degrees to ensure that the bed bugs, their eggs and nymph stages do not survive and re-infest.
5. Contact a reputable pest control company to carry out further remedial action on all other sources of infestation, other than the bedding. Typically, this might involve the treatment of mattresses, carpets, underlays, between floorboards, behind peeling wallpaper and in cracked or broken plaster or any other area considered a likely harbourage of bed bugs.

Bedbugs can re-appear if a treatment by a pest control company is not done thoroughly.

For further information on Bed Bugs, or for a FREE survey and advice call our information Hot Line on 0800 707 6084 or e-mail to [info@rentokilpestcontrol.co.uk](mailto:info@rentokilpestcontrol.co.uk)

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The Control of Bed Bugs Advisory Campaign for Hotels



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# Information and guidance for the control of bed bugs in hotels



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# The importance of controlling bed bugs

Bed Bugs are bad for business and will drive away customers. No self respecting hotel needs a reputation that their bedrooms are crawling with bed bugs.

This leaflet is designed to help you identify them, provide guidance on where to find them (remember they don't just thrive in beds) and because bed bugs are fast moving, and mainly nocturnal by nature, what are the tell-tale signs to confirm you've just found the early stages of a bed bug infestation.

This leaflet will also provide guidance on what remedial action needs to be taken to control the infestation.

And finally, please remember that because bed bugs are not a problem for you today, that does not mean that they will not become a problem tomorrow. Even the best run and cleanliness-conscious of establishments can suffer from infestations. Bed bugs are easily transportable in clothing and baggage. So if one of your overnight guests has been staying in accommodation, throughout their travels, that does suffer from bed bugs, they can easily be introduced into your establishment in this way.

**With travel on the increase, bed bugs are becoming a fast-growing problem for everyone offering hotel or overnight accommodation.**



bites on hands



live insect



blemishes on skin

If caught early, the problem can be solved promptly



blankets, duvets & sheets



mattresses & pillows



carpets & underlays



skirting boards & floorboards



inside electric fittings



behind peeling wallpaper

## Where to find bed bugs

As their name implies bed bugs can be readily found in all parts of beds and bedding including:

- mattresses • pillows • blankets • duvets • sheets

Equally, they can be found under headboards and in linen cupboards or anywhere that bedding is stored (many hotels provide additional convenience blankets for guests and these are frequently stored in wardrobes).

They are also to be found in:

- carpets • underlays • between timber floorboards • under skirting boards • inside electric plugs, sockets and fittings • behind peeling wallpaper • in cracked and broken plaster

In the first instance, bed bugs are often to be found on guests' clothing and in their baggage.

## How to identify the presence of bed bugs

Early detection is of paramount importance in controlling bed bugs. Cleaners and housekeeping staff are frequently the first line of defence and in the best position to spot the tell-tale signs of infestation.

Live insects are not always the first warning sign as bed bugs are fast moving and nocturnal by nature. Blood on bedsheets or mattresses, cast nymphal skins, faecal pellets even smell may provide a greater clue to their presence in your bedrooms.

The major tell-tale signs are:

- Live insect • Blood on bedsheets/mattresses
- Faecal pellets • Cast nymphal skins
- Distinctive smell

## The problems bed bugs create

Controlling bed bugs is the responsibility of everyone employed in the overnight accommodation business - housekeepers, cleaners, management and owners. Without constant checks infestations can be introduced by overnight guests, spread rapidly and contribute to the:

- Loss of customers
- Loss of repeat bookings
- Loss of hard-won reputations for cleanliness

Ultimately, it can also lead to the loss of jobs as customers stay away from those establishments whose reputation has suffered from an outbreak.



live insect



small blood spots on bedsheets



faecal pellets



cast nymphal skins



distinctive smell

