

Bedbugs (*Cimex lectularius*)

Description

Bedbugs are flat, oval shaped, blood feeding insects that are normally reddish brown in colour. Adults are up to 5mm in size.



Where and how do they live?

Bedbugs feed on human blood and feed every three to five days and are most active at night. Infestations occur mainly in the bedroom and lounge areas. These insects need to be where a host is going to be for an extended period. Each female can lay up to 500 eggs per year in temps above 21 degrees c and these then hatch in 6 to 17 days. Each adult will live for approx two months with out food.

Why are they a problem?

The bite from this insect can be very irritating. If bedbugs multiply unchecked the host may become anaemic through blood loss, although this is rare.

What can I do to prevent bedbugs in my home?

If you are thinking of buying secondhand furniture, check it thoroughly before bringing it home. Tell-tale signs apart from seeing the insects will be spots on the furniture. The spots are bedbug droppings, if they are moistened they will smear when rubbed.

How can I get rid of bedbugs?

You will need professional help to get rid of bedbugs.

The rooms where the host/s sleep, as well as lounge areas, will need to be treated with insecticide. This will include beds, soft furnishings, and other areas where these insects are likely to hide.

It is often necessary to remove or make holes in the material found under divan beds and lounge furniture in order to treat these pests effectively. It is also possible that the premises may need more than one treatment to control the problem. Redecorating, the removal or introduction of new furniture should not be done for some time after treatment in order that any hatching bugs will walk over the insecticide and so prevent re-infestation.

How we can help

Call pest control on 0800 952 4444. We will visit your home and advise you on how we will help you to get rid of the infestation.

Contact

If you are a council tenant and you are having a problem with bedbugs please contact your area housing office or call 0800 952 4444.