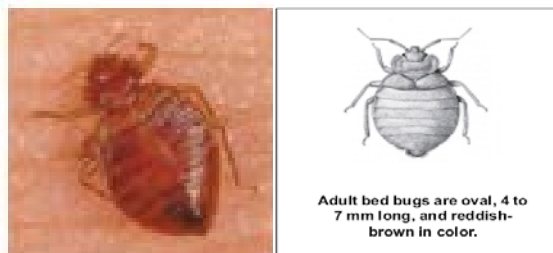

Bed Bugs

What are bed bugs?

Bed bugs are small, oval, flat, reddish-brown insects. They are 5 millimetres long (¼ inch). Bed bugs bite at night to get a blood meal.



How are bed bugs spread?

Bed bugs can be carried into a home on clothing, suit cases, bedding, mattresses and furniture. Bed bugs hide in small places, so inspections and treatment must be very thorough. In the home they hide:

- in mattresses or box spring seams
- in tufts or crevices of mattresses
- behind baseboards
- under loose wallpaper
- in couches or
- in cracks and crevices in walls, floors or furniture.

They may hide during the day and come out at night.

What are the signs and symptoms?

Bed bugs are not associated with transmitting human diseases. You may notice small blood spots on bedding or reddish, itchy bites on arms or upper body. Bed bugs can survive up to 1 year without feeding. They have been known to survive freezing.

How are bed bugs treated?

Bed bugs can be eliminated by using pesticides containing propoxur, permethrin, pyrethrin or diatomaceous earth. If you are a renter, contact your landlord to arrange for a licenced exterminator to treat your dwelling. It may take a number of days for the bed bugs to be eliminated.

How are bed bugs prevented?

Ensure any used furniture, mattresses or bedding you purchase are free of bed bugs. Launder any clothing that you think may have been in contact with items that may contain bedbugs.

Websites:

http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pubs/pest/fact-fiche/bedbug_room-punaisses_chambre/index-eng.php

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/pest-control-tips/bedbugs-how-do-i-get-rid-them.html>

For more information, call the Environmental Public Health Department at (306) 655-4605.



Saskatchewan
Health Authority

Environmental Public Health