

LOOKING FOR BEDBUGS AT A HOTEL...



Here are some quick tips to make sure your room (hotel rooms, bedrooms, living areas, etc) isn't infested with bedbugs! Most people who end up having their home infested with bedbugs could have prevented it by looking for the signs below.

The first thing you can do is find reviews of the hotel you're staying at by searching the internet. Keep in mind that a report about one hotel does not mean the issue wasn't isolated to one room, or that hotel management hasn't since exterminated the bugs.

When staying at a hotel, hang clothing in the closet that is farthest from your bed, place luggage on the folding rack usually found at hotels and always place your luggage in a plastic bag (hotel provided dry cleaning bags work great).

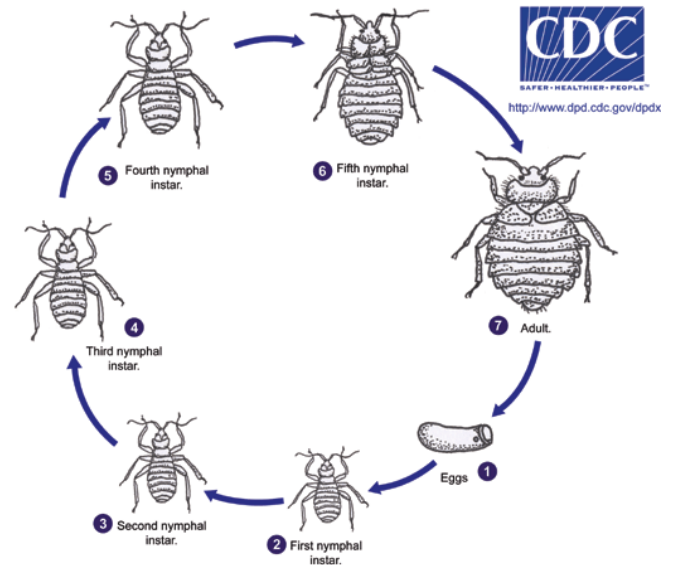
- After you arrive at your hotel, the first thing you should do is to utilize the luggage stand in the hotel room to keep your bags off of the floor as far away from the bed as possible, where bedbugs can easily get into your things and end up hitching a ride home with you. You may want to hang your clothes in the closet, and put your suitcase into a plastic bag. (Bring one yourself, or use the laundry/dry cleaning bag provided by the hotel.)
- Next, spot check the bed. Peel back the bed sheets and check the mattress, running your fingers along the upper and lower seams. Make sure to check the mattress tag and plastic around the edges; bed bugs often hide there.
- Check for tiny black spots (smaller than the size of poppy seeds) behind the headboard, translucent skins or actual bedbugs. Bed bug spots (fecal matter) are dark brown to black in color and stick to the surface. If it falls off, then it's not a bed bug spot. You can also take a wet towel and wipe the spot to see if it smears and if so, then it may be fecal matter.
- Check the bedside table, clock, remote control, outlet covers, books, behind wall hangings or pictures, or any other furniture or fixtures near the bed. Don't forget to check the battery compartments. Check bed skirts, hide-a-beds and other upholstered or wooden furniture. Bedbugs don't like the light, so they'll be hiding in areas that are usually dark or have very low light.
- Are there shed skins? As the bed bug develops, it sheds the skin which looks like the bug. Also look for tiny white eggs (like rice) along the edge of the mattress.
- already been treated for bugs by an exterminator.
- If you do see a bedbug or signs of one, inform a manager immediately. You may request another room but remember the bedbugs could easily be in other parts of the hotel as well. It may be best to leave and find another hotel if there is any sign at all of bedbugs. ***Call the Kansas Department of Agriculture at 785-296-7430 or 785-296-5600 to report bedbugs in hotels.***
- Other signs of bedbugs may include itching or a foul smell. The odor has been described a number of ways, most say it resembles spoiled raw beef, musty odor or a sweet odor such as fresh red raspberries. Some say it smells like coriander, or cilantro.
- Just because the room or hotel is new or expensive does not mean it's free from bedbugs; bedbugs find rooms by riding on the clothes or luggage of others and may have been hitching a ride on the last occupant.

- When you're ready to leave, double check your luggage as well as individual items within your suitcase. Place clothing in a sealed plastic bag, and dry in a hot dryer when you get home. This may seem cumbersome, but preventing a bedbug infestation is a LOT easier than dealing with one!
- If you spot a bedbug within your luggage, wash the item in hot water and dry on high heat for 20-30 minutes. Then place the item in a zip lock bag, which should keep any bedbugs out.
- During the early stages of infestation (if you or someone just brought one home), the bed bug(s) usually hide out in the mattress, box springs, (and headboard). If this is your home and you're concerned you might have a few in bed with you, it would be wise to buy a mattress cover; this will seal in the bed bugs and over time, they will die.
- Contact a professional exterminator that has been trained in bedbug removal.

Areas bed bugs like to hide

Bedbugs love gaps in just about everything, so check:

- behind baseboards
- around door and window casings
- around window sills and frames
- behind electrical and telephone switch plates
- between flooring and wall components
- where materials meet to form a gap
- around pipes (water, drain, electrical conduits)
- seams, creases, tufts, and folds of the mattress and box spring
- bed frames and behind head board; knotholes in wood
- bed skirts
- under night stands and drawers
- storage units
- items such as furniture that may have hollow legs
- between upholstered furniture
- between the folds of drapery or curtains
- in the alarm clock



**REMEMBER – NEVER, NEVER, EVER
BRING DISCARDED, USED MATTRESSES
AND FURNITURE INTO YOUR HOME!**