

Bed Bugs are becoming a more common pest due to the increase in travel and migration.

They used to be associated with low standards of hygiene, and while it is true that they will thrive where premises aren't cleaned regularly any premises are at risk.



What do I look for and where?

Firstly look for the live insects. They will usually be found close to where they are feeding so bedheads, mattresses, around the seams and buttons, and the actual frame of the bed.

They will also hide in bedside furniture around the joints and behind pictures, lamps, around skirting boards and behind any peeling wallpaper.

Spotting can occur on bed sheets, mattresses etc and they look like dark brown/black marks.

As bed bugs grow they cast their skin so look for opaque material the same shape as the adult insect.

We can supply detectors that can be taped to the bedhead, out of sight of customers. These are a simple detector that provide the bugs with a place to live. When inspected you will either see live insects or the tell tale spotting.



The following sheets provide a guide of where to look and a checklist should the insects be found or suspected.

Pest Manager Service Procedures

Room nos: _____

Inspection

- q Mattress/es (seams, beading, under buttons, labels and corner protectors if not previously removed).
- q Ensemble base (material covering base removed, check hollow plastic caster legs).
- q Bed frame (wooden slats, bed posts, etc).
- q Bed head (if attached, remove from wall).
- q Bedside furniture (including removing and checking drawers in tables and cupboards).
- q Other furniture (e.g. luggage racks, especially along seams and buttons, wooden joints, especially if constructed of fibreboard).
- q Electrical fittings and appliances.
- q Underneath carpet edges and the straight edges (plus any other floor coverings, along with joins in floor boards).
- q Wallpaper and paint (if loose).
- q Architraves, wall hangings, picture frames, wall mirrors, Venetian and vertical blinds, curtains and curtain rods, books, behind electrical conduit, cracks and joins in the ceiling and ceiling mouldings.
- q Lounges in common rooms of backpacker lodges.
- q Housekeeping carts & rooms, linen & mattress storage rooms, laundry areas.
- q Adjoining rooms, above & below.

Inspection Notes

Bed bugs have a very flat body shape and can hide in virtually any crack and crevice, preferring dark, isolated and protected areas. Bed bugs prefer wood, paper and fabric surfaces and so these materials should be paid special attention in the inspection process.

The mattress should be the first site inspected, and generally, bed bugs are more likely to be present in the darker areas near the wall. Close attention should be paid to;

- The seams, along beading, under buttons, labels, and corner protectors if not previously removed.
- For an ensemble, the base is more likely to harbour the bugs than the top mattress. The edge of the material underneath the ensemble base is a favourite spot for bugs as well as any hollow plastic caster legs. It will be necessary to remove the material covering the base of the ensemble.
- For metal framed beds if wooden slats are present; these contain many cracks for bed bugs to hide in and lay their eggs. If the wooden slats are bolted to the bed frame, the bolts should be undone and the drilled holes inspected and treated. Bed bugs can also hide in coils of bed springs and inside hollow bed posts.

The areas around the bed should be investigated next, these include;

- The bed frame, bed head and bedside furniture.
- The drawers in tables and cupboards should be removed and examined.
- If bed heads are attached to the wall, they should be removed after consulting maintenance staff.
- Other furniture in the room should be inspected, especially locations where luggage is placed, such as luggage racks. For these, close attention should be paid to the seams and buttons (if upholstered) and any wooden join (especially if constructed of chipboard).
- Other inspection sites include appliances such as telephones and audio visual equipment, books, power points and behind switch plates, underneath carpet edges and the straight edge that holds the carpet in place along with rugs, skirting boards, joins in floor boards and under floor boards, loose wall paper and paint, architraves, old nail and screw holes, ornaments, window casings and wall voids.
- Bed bugs may be found higher on the wall in wall hangings, picture frames, wall mirrors, Venetian and vertical blinds, curtains and curtain rods, books, behind electrical conduit, cracks and joins in the ceiling, under ceiling mouldings, smoke detectors and light fittings.

A room site plan should be drawn showing the location of any activity. The room inspection should be as methodical as possible noting all sites of bed bug activity on the site plan.