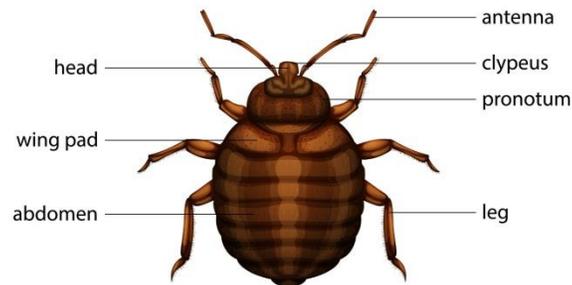


What are Bed Bugs?

Bed Bug Anatomy



Bed bugs are tiny wingless insects that live by feeding off the blood of warm blooded mammals. Humans, unfortunately, are ideal hosts for bed bugs. They are about the size of a grain of rice. Bed bugs feed on their hosts while they are asleep. The peak time for feeding is one hour before sunrise. When they feed, they inject the host with a small amount of anesthetic, so that he or she feels nothing. Bites are not noticeable to the host right away, but after several feedings the saliva from the bed bug can cause irritation and itching. Bed bugs can live for six to nine months and reproduce among themselves.

They can get into your home through tiny cracks or even outlets. They are called bed bugs because their preferred place of residence in human homes is sofas, bed mattresses and other soft furnishings. They can enter a home as stowaways in luggage, furniture and bedding, especially with second-hand furniture. It is important to be careful when purchasing second hand furniture at bargain prices because said furniture could be infested. All furniture should be thoroughly inspected before it is moved into your home. A bed bug infestation can escalate very quickly. Bed bugs can infest entire dormitories or apartment complexes because it is so easy for them to spread.

You may have a bed bug infestation if you notice bites on your skin, especially on the extremities, that appear after you've been asleep. If this happens, you should examine the bedrooms, creases in bed linen, seams and tufts of mattresses and box springs for bugs or eggs. The eggs will look like tiny pale poppy seeds. Be sure to also check beneath loose areas of wallpaper near beds, in the corner of desks and dressers, in the laundry and in drawers. Bed

beds are not known to transmit diseases, but an infestation should not be taken lightly. The best solution for bed bugs is to call a professional exterminator.

Source:

What are bed bugs? How to treat bed bugs. (2014, September 1). Retrieved May 7, 2015, from http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/158065.php#controlling_an_infestation

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