

BED BUG TIPS FOR HOME VISITORS



No One Wants to Get Bed Bugs!

Bed bugs are on a comeback in the United States and they can even be found in Clermont County. Immigration, international travel and restrictions in the use of effective pesticides are suspected in the increasing number of bed bug infestations.

Bed bugs are not selective; they do not care if a residence is clean or dirty

nor do they care about the income level of the occupants. Bed bugs are simply looking for a comfortable dark place to hide and a human host.

Treatment of bed bugs is difficult and can be costly. Additionally the vigilance that residents have to endure during treatment can take an emotional and financial toll.

Treatment can take months and while the cleanliness of a home has little bearing on infestation, homes must be de-cluttered for pest control measures to be effective.



How do Home Visitors Prevent Bringing them “Home”?

No one wants to go into an infested home, but in providing services to residents it may be necessary.

Here are some tips home visitors can use when visiting any home:

- Know what to look for, bed bugs are often mistaken for ticks or small roaches.
- Open the blinds and turn the lights on, bed bugs are nocturnal and will generally hide during daylight hours.

- Choose a hard chair over the sofa or upholstered chairs where bed bugs may be living.
- Carry plastic totes and bags instead of cloth making it harder for bed bugs to hitch a ride.
- Wear light colored clothes so you can see hitchhikers.
- Don't wear pants with cuffs as they provide a hiding place.
- Carry a solution of 90% or greater isopropyl alcohol solution. Bed

bugs die when directly sprayed with it.

If you know a home is infested here are some additional precautions:

- If possible, try meeting off site in a park or at the library.
- Wear disposable shoe covers.

Unless there is a severe infestation, the risk of picking up bedbugs during a home visit is relatively low.

Facts about Bed Bugs:

- Bed bugs are true insects
- Bed bugs are nocturnal
- Bed bugs prefer to feed on humans
- Bed bugs are visible without magnification
- Adult bed bugs can live for over a year between feedings
- Bed Bugs can be killed with heat above 120°F
- Bed Bugs are not known to spread disease
- Bed bugs do not fly or jump but can move quickly along floors, walls and ceilings
- Most people do not feel bed bugs bite
- The severity of welts and itching caused by the bites vary from person to person
- Bed bugs like to hide in the folds of fabric and crevices of wood



Adult bed bug