

What Do I Do?

If you receive a call from a resident of a college owned property who suspects his/her living space may have bedbugs, please complete the following steps:

- 1) Instruct the resident not to remove any items from his/her living space such as mattresses, box springs, furniture, bedding or clothing. If there are bed bugs present, moving these items may increase the infestation area.
- 2) Assure the resident that bed bugs are not a health hazard and s/he should not feel bad; bed bugs are easily transported from different locations such as buses or taxis and by luggage, backpacks or other items that are placed on infested soft or upholstered surfaces.
- 3) Take a photo of the bug if possible to help the inspector identify it.

Who Do I Contact?

Contact Campus Safety (518-388-6911) and EHS Director, Liz Dobson-Davis (518-925-2753) to report the suspected bedbugs. Provide them with the resident's name, location and phone number.



Bed Bugs (*Cimex Lectularius*)

Identification and Action Guide



What Do Bed Bugs Look Like?



Bedbugs are small, oval, brownish insects that live on the blood of animals or humans.

Adult bedbugs have flat bodies about the size of an apple seed. After feeding, however, their bodies swell and are a reddish color.

Where Do They Hide?

Bedbugs may enter your home undetected through luggage, clothing, used beds and couches, and other items.

Their flattened bodies make it possible for them to fit into tiny spaces, about the width of a credit card. Bedbugs do not have nests like ants or bees, but tend to live in groups in hiding places. Their initial hiding places are typically in mattresses, box springs, bed frames, and headboards where they have easy access to people to bite in the night.



What Do Bites Look Like?

Most bedbug bites are painless at first, but later turn into itchy welts. Unlike flea bites that are mainly around the ankles, bedbug bites are on any area of skin exposed while sleeping. Also, the bites do not have a red spot in the center like flea bites do.

People who don't realize they have a bedbug infestation may attribute the itching and welts to other causes, such as mosquitoes. To confirm bedbug bites, you must find and identify the bug.

