

BED BUGS



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Color: Mahogany to red-brown

Shape: Flat, broad oval when unfed; swollen and elongated when fed

Size: 1/4 inch long

Region: Found throughout U.S. and the world

Habits

Being excellent hitchhikers, bed bugs hide in purses, luggage and other personal belongings in an effort to find a human food supply. Bed bugs can also hide nearly anywhere inside a car, bus, home, etc. that you can think of and in many places you would not expect.

Threats

While not being known to transmit diseases, bed bug bites can become red, itchy welts. Those with infestations may experience sleeplessness, anxiety and social isolation.

Prevention

Inspect bedding for shed bed bug skins and change your bed linens often. Before settling in to hotel rooms, inspect the bed and furniture. Set your luggage away from walls and furniture. Examine any secondhand furniture or clothing before bringing it home. When returning home from traveling, inspect your suitcase and store any clothes in a sealed plastic bag until they can be washed.