

Identifying Bed Bugs

Infestations of the common bed bug or ***Cimex lectularius***, are on the rise. Infestations are no longer limited to only certain regions or big cities.

The best strategy is to avoid taking possession of infested shipments. From sales people, packers and Van Operators to Warehouse personnel, identifying the presence of bed bugs is everyone's job.

Protecting our customers

We should protect our customers and their property while treating this subject with discretion. Infestations of bed bugs are not a reflection of anyone's personal hygiene. Though a nuisance, bed bugs do not pose a health risk to people nor do they carry other diseases.

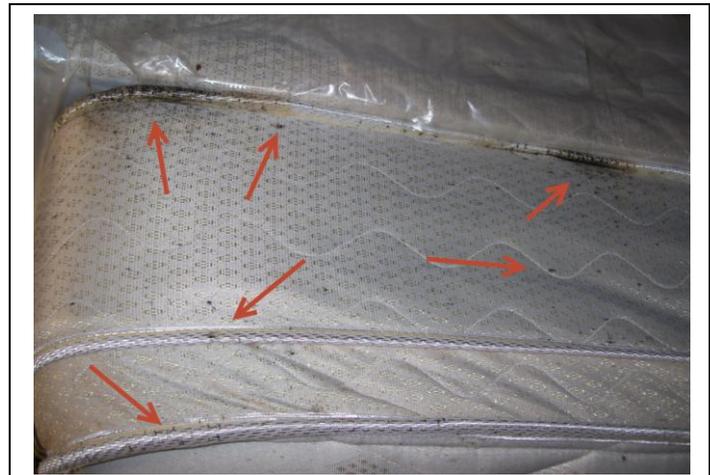
Protecting ourselves

We have policies and procedures that address bed bug and other insect infestations. We should not knowingly cross contaminate shipments. If bed bugs are detected at any time, stop operations and contact your supervisor and the Home Office. The tariff does allow a carrier to refuse to transport a shipment determined to be infested or contaminated.

Refer to the Agency Announcement entitled: ***"Identifying and Responding to Wet, Moldy, Infested or Otherwise Contaminated Shipments."***



Adult bed bug- actual size. Adult bed bugs are easily seen, growing as large as an apple seed. They have flat, reddish-brown bodies. They spend most of their time hiding in cracks and crevices.



Bed bug "droppings" on mattress

Though called "bed-bugs" they can be found in any piece of furniture, walls, floors or carpets. They are attracted to exhaled carbon dioxide and gather anywhere people remain stationary for periods of time such as sleeping in beds, or on sofas or chairs. Rather than seeing live insects you are more likely to see the stains they leave as indicated in the photo.

Know the signs of bed bugs

Live bugs- seeing live bed bugs in daylight hours is a sign of a serious infestation.

Dead bugs or skin cast- After each blood meal, bed bugs "molt" and cast off a skin shell. Dead bugs or these shells are found near sleeping areas.

Eggs- Very tiny (1mm) white in color. They show up against darker backgrounds, usually in a cluster around the bug's hiding place.

Fecal stains and droppings- A dead give-away for the presence of bed bugs. Droppings appear as small dark spots, either beads or flattened stains of blood. Can appear similar to mold or mildew.

Anyone discovering signs of contamination should report it to your supervisor immediately!