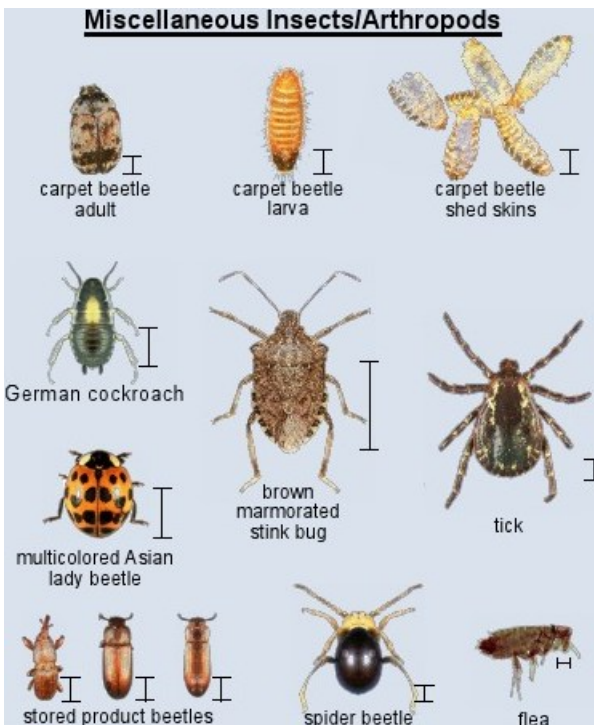
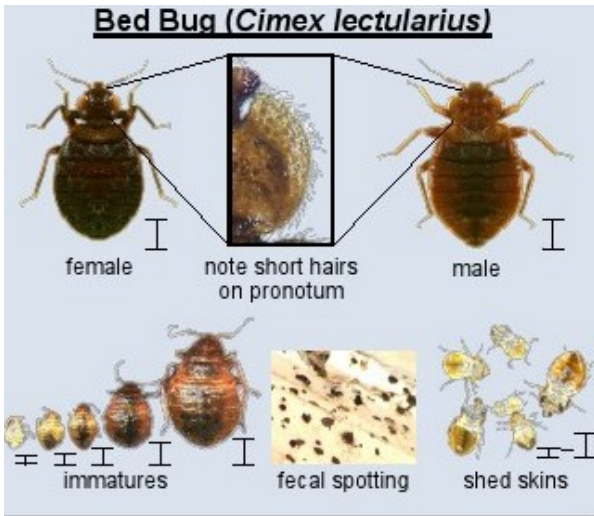
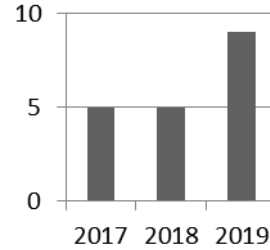


# Household Insects



Source: Ohio State University <https://ipm.osu.edu/>

Bed Bug Nuisance Complaints in the City of Kent



One out of five Americans has had a **bed bug** infestation in their home or knows someone who has encountered bed bugs according to a new survey released by the National Pest Management Association (NPMA).

Source: <http://www.pestworld.org/news-hub/>



414 East Main Street

P.O. Box 5192  
Kent, Ohio 44240

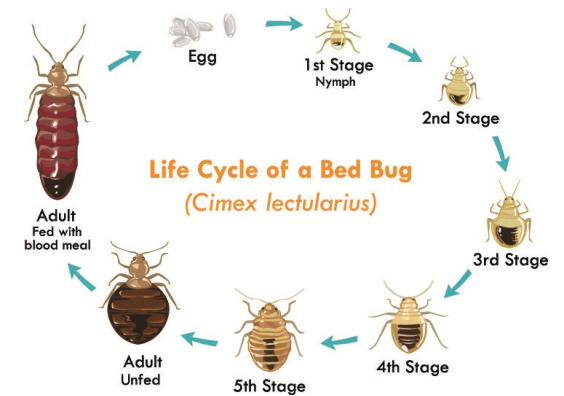
330-678-8109

[www.kentpublichealth.org](http://www.kentpublichealth.org)

# Facts About Bed Bugs



## Kent City Health Department



## What are bed bugs?

*Bed bugs are flat, small, wingless, blood-sucking insects. They feed on warm-blooded animals, such as birds, bats and humans. They hide in cracks and crevices in beds, wooden furniture, floors and walls during the day, and come out at night to feed on sleeping hosts. Bed bugs are not caused by poor hygiene or bad housekeeping. Bed bugs are not known to spread disease. Adult bed bugs are approximately ¼ inch long, about the size of a lady bug. They are gray or brown in color, but turn red after finishing a blood meal. Bed bugs can survive a very long time without eating – perhaps several months. Female bed bugs will lay 200-500 eggs in a lifetime. Bed bug eggs are cream colored and look similar to tiny pieces of rice.*

## Health Issues: What are the symptoms of bed bug bites?

The majority of people do not react to bed bug bites. The bed bug bite may cause itchy red bumps on the skin. Most people don't feel the bug biting. The bumps may appear in a line or a group of bites. Lack of sleep is a serious side-effect causing reduced alertness and productivity. Some people could have more serious or allergic reactions to the bites and may require medical treatment, such as:

- ◆ Large, itchy bumps up to 8 inches across.
- ◆ Blister-like skin sores.
- ◆ Skin rashes similar to hives.
- ◆ In very rare instances, a severe allergic reaction can lead to anaphylactic shock.

## Signs of a Bed Bug

### Infestation in Your Home

- **Small bloodstains on your sheets and mattresses.**
- **Bed bugs or their eggs may be found in the folds and creases in the bed linens and seams or tufts of mattresses and box springs. They may also be found within pleats of curtains, beneath loose areas of wallpaper near the bed, in corners of desks and dressers, in crevices of sofas and chairs, on furniture, behind cove molding, and in laundry or other items on the floor or around the room.**
- **Sometimes, characteristic dark brown or reddish fecal spots of bed bugs can be found on the bed linens, mattress or walls near the bed.**

### How do you know if you've got bed bugs?

- You wake up with itchy bug bites
  - Look like mosquito bites
  - Exposed skin is most affected: face, neck, hands, arms, and lower legs



## How is it treated?

Bed bugs move around by hitching rides on clothing, furniture, bedding and baggage. Bed bugs will live in any crack or crevice in or around sleeping areas. Treatment of bed bug infestations can be difficult, as the pests are very good at hiding, and they can spread rapidly between rooms and buildings. Treatment usually consists of a combination of environmental controls (daily laundering of bedding, vacuuming, caulking cracks and crevices, eliminating clutter, etc.) and insecticide treatments by licensed professionals.

## How is it prevented?

If bed bugs are already present in your home, you can help prevent more bites by wearing pajamas that cover as much skin as possible.

### To help control bed bug infestations:

- \* Inspect antiques and secondhand furniture thoroughly before bringing them into your home.
- \* Place new or second-hand clothing in a dryer set on the highest heat the fabric can withstand for at least 20 minutes when you bring the clothing home.
- \* While you are traveling, inspect any room where you will be staying, paying close attention to the sheets and mattress.
- \* After you return from a trip, check your luggage for insects.
- \* Change bed linens at least once a week, and wash in the hottest water the fabric can stand.
- \* Vacuum around the home at least once a week, paying special attention to areas around the bed.
- \* Caulk holes in floors and walls.