

Status: November 2015

Bedbugs




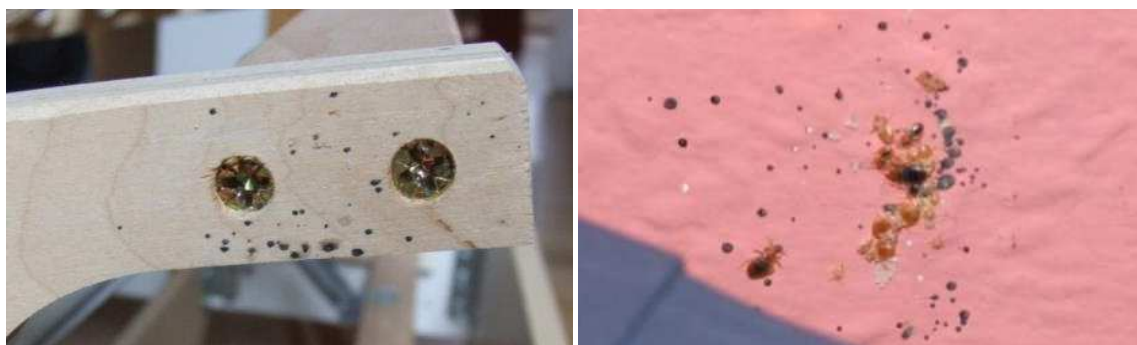
Fully-grown bedbugs (*Cimex lectularius*)

Data and Facts

Bedbugs are approximately 2.5 to 6 millimetres large, and are blood-sucking insects. They are to be found in inhabited, closed rooms and they hide in all types of gaps and cracks such as furniture and beds as well as behind skirting boards, wallpaper and light switches etc.

Bedbugs are transferred passively via items (luggage, old furniture, etc.). You must not remove infested items from rooms untreated, since you would then cause further spreading of the insects. In case of intensive infestation or when bedbugs no longer have access to a source of food, they may migrate to other rooms. In exceptional cases the insects may also infest the clothes of the respective person, and the insects then spread via such clothing.

Bedbugs in original size from ~ 2.5 mm to ~ 6 mm. 



Excrement marks of bedbugs (left) and live bedbugs on the wall (right)

What do bedbug bites look like?

Bedbug bites can appear differently from person to person. Some people reveal no visible bites, while others show stronger skin reactions. They are typically found in a group of several bites, since the bugs have to bite several times before they can successfully suck blood. Bedbug bites can be easily mistaken for bites of other insects. The bites are usually visible in the morning, though with some people the bites only appear after a few days.



Different skin reactions to bedbug bites

Do bedbugs transmit disease agents?

No.

What should I do in case of bedbug infestation?

Bedbugs have nothing to do with a lack of hygiene, which is why thorough cleaning of the rooms is not sufficient to eliminate infestation.

You cannot combat and control bedbug infestation yourself. In Germany this is carried out by a professional pest controller.

Pest control measures in shared, community accommodation are very difficult and require a lot of time. Therefore, **please inform the management of your accommodation immediately**, if you discover live animals or traces. **Carry out regular checks!**

Mark the excrement traces on solid surfaces so that you can immediately identify new excrement traces. Look out for bites. Check your bed for any traces of blood.

Observe the instructions of the pest controller.

You can find information (in German) about the appearance and living patterns of bedbugs at: www.biozid.info › Schädlingssratgeber (pest advisor)

Editor:

German Environment Agency

P.O. Box 14 06 | 06844 Dessau-Roßlau

Tel: +49 340-2103-0 | info@umweltbundesamt.de

Internet: www.umweltbundesamt.de

Image sources: UBA