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# BED BUGS

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

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### IDENTIFYING BED BUGS

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- Adult bed bugs are reddish brown in color and about the size of a pencil eraser.
- Young bed bugs are whitish in color and about the size of a pin head.
- Bed bugs are oval-shaped and do not have wings.
- Can be confused with other bugs, like booklice, baby cockroaches, and carpet beetles.

### HEALTH EFFECTS

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- Bed bugs are not known to transmit diseases, but allergens from bed bugs may be associated with asthma.
- Reactions to bites can include the development of welts, which can be accompanied by itching and inflammation.



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## WHERE TO FIND BED BUGS IN YOUR HOME

- Bed bugs are mostly found in and around the bed, couches and armchairs.
- They enter homes on used furniture, luggage, and clothing.
- Look for bed bug droppings (black, spot-like stains) around the seams of your mattress and box springs.
- Bed bugs prefer tight spaces such as cracks in furniture, bed frames, wallpaper, and baseboards.

## TREATMENT OF BED BUGS

### Hiring a Pest Control Company

- Due to the complex nature of bed bugs and their treatment, hiring a licensed professional is advisable.
- Verify that your pest control company is licensed with the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Structural Pest Control Section at [agr.georgia.gov/structural](http://agr.georgia.gov/structural).
- You will need to assist with preparation of your home and continued monitoring.

### Pesticide Safety



- If you choose to apply a pesticide yourself, choose a product that is registered with the U.S. EPA for the treatment of bed bugs.
- Read and follow the label directions carefully.
- Bug bombs & foggers are hazardous if misapplied, and often not effective against bed bugs.



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