



# BED BUGS



## How do I know if there are bed bugs in my house or apartment?

- You have found an insect that looks like this in your home. 
- You have smelled an unusual, offensive odor.
- Someone in your home has insect bites.

## What should I do if I think there are bed bugs in my home?

If you rent your house or apartment, **tell the owner or apartment manager**. They should help you to properly treat the problem with a professional exterminator. Act quickly and FOLLOW THESE THREE STEPS so you can eliminate the bed bugs and keep them from traveling to other homes.

- 1. Locate all possible places that the bed bugs might be hiding. Bed bugs can be found:**
  - Under, inside and behind all kinds of furniture (mattresses, sofas, dressers)
  - Underneath items like lamps, radios, and phones
  - On walls and things that are hung on or near walls like pictures, mirrors, and curtains.
  - On clothing, in luggage and in closets.
- 2. Work with the exterminator to thoroughly treat all places where the bed bugs reside.**
  - Help to clean out and take apart furniture so that your apartment can be completely treated by an exterminator.
  - If you decide to purchase additional insecticides or pesticides on your own, **always read the label and follow the directions and safety precautions. Be especially careful not to let young children come into contact with harmful substances.**
  - For your furniture, only use products that are labeled for use on furniture.
  - Often you need to reapply the insecticide or pesticide after 1 or 2 days.
- 3. Thoroughly clean everything in your home and discard infested furniture, especially mattresses and sofas.**
  - You will need to thoroughly clean all of your belongings – furniture, household items, toys and clothes.
  - Talk to the apartment manager about how to dispose of your infested furniture. **YOU DO NOT WANT TO HAVE ANYONE ELSE PICK IT UP AND USE IT AGAIN.**
  - **Be wary of used mattresses and other household furniture of unknown origin.**

## Can bed bugs make me sick?

Bed bugs do not tend to spread disease, but they can be irritating and their bites can cause allergic reactions to the skin (itching, swelling or burning). If you crush one with your hands or scratch your own bites, make sure to wash your hands thoroughly so you don't cause an infection.

Please call the Orange County Health Department if you have further questions.

English/Inglés: 245-2360

Spanish/Español: 644-3350