

PEST: Bed Bug (*Cimex lectularius*)

BASIC PROFILE: Common bed bugs (BB) are oval, flattened light tan to dark brown insects 3-5 mm (3/16") in length that are found in human dwellings, furniture and household goods such as bedding, clothing, luggage, etc. BB hide during the day and feed at night on human blood, leaving tell-tale bites. Eggs are tiny and are laid in many places in homes/dwellings such as mattresses and cracks or crevices in furnishings. Nymphs (immatures) can survive months without feeding and adults can live up to a year without a blood meal. Their presence can be detected by their droppings – dark spots or reddish ink-like stains on wood or linens. BB are a nuisance pest and although they are feared and loathed, they are not known to transmit diseases. Their bites may cause itching or irritation and can become infected if scratched and untreated.

LDAF ACTIVITY: BB have global distribution and were a problem in the U.S. prior to effective controls used in ~1950s. Only recently have they re-emerged as a problem in the U.S., possibly due to worldwide movement as hitchhikers in luggage, clothing and furnishings and apparent resistance to some chemical controls. There are no current federal or state regulatory quarantines in place because BB are widespread. LDAF activity consists of regulating commercial pest control operators who treat for BB. If circumstances change, LDAF may become more involved in action to control BB.



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Bed bugs in mattress seam



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Bites



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Bed bug stains on mattress