



### PROTECTING YOUR HOME FROM BED BUGS

Bed bugs are hitchhikers, they move from one infested site to another by traveling on furniture, bedding, luggage, boxes and clothing.

Bed bugs feed on blood only. Bed bugs typically feed on blood every five to ten days, bed bugs can be quite resilient and are capable of surviving several months to a year without feeding.

#### Simple precautions can help prevent bed bugs in your home

- \*Inspect the luggage rack, beds and furniture in your hotel rooms.
- \*Check second hand furniture for any signs of bed bugs before you bring them into your home.
- \*Use protective coverings that encase mattresses and box springs and eliminates hiding spots. The light color of the encasement makes them easier to see. Check the encasement regularly for holes.
- \*Reduce clutter in the home to reduce hiding spaces for the bed bugs.
- \*Vacuum frequently
- \*If you live in a multi-family home, try and isolate your unit by;
  - >Installing door sweeps on the bottom of the doors to discourage movement into hallways.
  - >Sealing cracks and crevices around the baseboards, light sockets, etc, to discourage movement through the wall voids.

Controlling bed bugs takes time and patience. The biology of the bed bug dictates this, since they reproduce quickly and their eggs are resistant to many methods of pest control, both chemical and non-chemical.

#### Bed bug control is more effective when the occupants are diligent participants in working towards eradication. In multi-family housing, diligent participation is also required of the building management.

Severe infestations may require professional extermination. Diatomaceous Earth may also be used. Diatomaceous Earth (often referred to as "DE") is an off white talc-like powder that is the fossilized remains of marine phytoplankton. When sprinkled on a bug that has an exoskeleton (such as bed bugs, ants or fleas) it compromises their waxy coating so that their innards turn into teeny tiny bug jerky. But it doesn't harm mammals.

Miami County Public Health knows how difficult it is to deal with bed bugs. We have received many calls and know that this is a nuisance. We want to help, we have diatomaceous earth, which can aid in eliminating bed bugs. Stop in and see us or call to have it dropped off to you.

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