

Bed Bugs

"Good night, sleep tight, don't let the Bed Bugs bite. And if they do, then take your shoe, And knock 'em 'til they're black and blue"



Introduction

Since the beginning of the 21st century there has been a resurgence in bed bug populations. The main reasons for this are the increase in international travel, the increased use of central heating, resistance to pesticides and a general lack of awareness.

Bed bug infestations are commonly associated with hotels, guest houses and domestic premises. However infestations can also occur in hospitals, ships, waiting rooms and even public transport.

Whilst there is no evidence that bed bugs spread disease up to 50% of people bitten do show an allergic reaction in the form of an itchy bump that can last for several days.

Bed Bugs are not a sign of bad housekeeping even the cleanest hotel is susceptible to guests bringing them in on their clothes or luggage.

Characteristics

Bed bug adults are rust brown in colour changing to a deeper red brown after feeding. They are 5-6mm long and are dorsoventrally

flattened.

An adult bed bug is very similar in shape, colour and size to an apple seed.

On average a female can lay 350 eggs during her life.

After hatching bed bugs go through five juvenile stages, all similar in body shape to the adult but smaller and lighter in colour. Each juvenile stage needs one full blood meal before moulting to the next stage.

Adults live between 6 and 12 months.

Facts about bed bugs

- An adult bed bug can survive up to 550 days without food
- They can ingest up to 7 times their own body weight in one feed
- Bed bugs can lay up to 200 eggs
- They will change colour depending on when they last had a feed. After feeding they will be a brown/ red colour and if they haven't fed for a while they will be pale and possibly translucent
- Beagles can be trained to sniff out bed bugs!



Signs of infestation

- Live or dead bed bugs
- Small dark blood spots on sheets and/ or bedding
- Presence of eggs (cream coloured, approximately 1mm long)
- Guest complaints of being bitten.



It is important that the early signs of infestation are detected to prevent discomfort to guests.

Bed bugs are NOT a sign of poor housekeeping and there is no evidence that they carry diseases

Bed bugs can be carried on visitor's luggage and their clothes.

Genus

"A Kiwi company understanding Kiwi problems."

Treatment Options

The treatment options available to Genus include:

- **Heat:** Genus use the unique BioVapor heat treatment system to disinfect mattresses, beds, soft furnishings such as chairs, sofas and other fabrics. Heat treatment is often used in addition to insecticidal spray treatments.
- **Insecticidal:** An insecticidal spray treatment is applied using the latest proven and fully approved insecticides often combined with insect growth regulators, to all identified likely harbourages eliminating the infestation and preventing re-infestation. The products used are fast acting and of low mammalian toxicity. This treatment will also control other pests present such as fleas and lice.
- **BugLock Encasements:** BugLock bed bug mattress and bed base encasements prevent bed bugs entering and escaping from mattresses and bed bases. Used in conjunction with the other elements of the Genus bed bug control programme they can contribute to minimising the risk of re-infestation.

There is no quick fix to a bed bug problem. Eradication of an infestation takes time and involves a partnership between us and the client.

Attempting a quick fix usually results in making the problem worse.

The Genus eradication programme follows the Code of Practice for control of Bed Bug Infestations in Australia; this has been adopted as the industry standard by the Pest Management Association on New Zealand (PMANZ). This code is available at www.bedbug.org.au.

The key elements of the Genus programme are:

- Inspection
- Identification
- Chemical and non-chemical treatment
- Post treatment inspection
- Training



Real bed bug shown with two eggs on the right hand side. The rice is for size comparison.

Other treatments and solutions from Genus

- Spiders
- Flies
- Cockroaches
- Ants
- Bird prevention
- Stored product pests
- Rodents
- Heat treatment
- Fumigation

Please call us to discuss all your pest management needs.

**"Don't forget
Prevention is better
than the Cure."**



**Trust Genus for all of
your pest
management needs.**