

BED BUGS 101

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN RYERSON UNIVERSITY AND ORKIN CANADA.

While the presence of bed bugs is not an indication of cleanliness standards or of socioeconomic status, they do, unfortunately, have a social stigma and many people are embarrassed to admit an issue.

Bed bugs are extremely efficient hitch hikers and anyone who comes into contact with them can unknowingly carry them into their home or school. They can be accidentally moved with clothes, furniture, suitcases and even personal items like backpacks and purses.

WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE

Bed bugs are small, flat, wingless insects about the size of an apple seed. They are reddish-brown in color and appear swollen and red after a blood meal.

WHY THEY'RE A THREAT

- Bed bugs are resilient. They can survive many months in cool conditions without feeding.
- Bed bugs are typically in hiding during the daytime, so it's difficult to spot them.
- Bed bugs can reproduce quickly, so it's critical to detect introductions and treat them as soon as possible.
- Bed bug bites can cause mild to serious skin reactions.

"SPOTTING" THE SIGNS:

Bed bugs are typically in hiding during the daytime, so it's difficult to spot them. They can go unnoticed for long periods of time as they prefer to stay in cracks and crevices.

Signs of bed bugs include live bed bugs, cast skins, fecal smears and bed bug bites. Look for the tiny, ink-colored stains they leave behind on:

- Mattress tags and seams, ceilings, under seat cushions, behind headboards, couches in common areas, plush chairs in classrooms and offices, desks and bundled phone and computer wires
- Keep an eye out for potential hiding places (buckling wallpaper or carpet) or conditions that attract bed bugs such as heat.
- Report signs of bed bugs to maintenance immediately.
- If bed bugs are suspected the first step is a visual inspection by a trained pest control professional.
- If you see a bed bug - keep a sample for identification.
- Follow-up inspections by a canine team, while not 100%, are much more accurate.

PREVENTION

Bed bugs cannot be completely prevented because people can bring them into an establishment at any time on their personal belongings. Early detection and treatment is the best way for an educational facility to reduce the chances of a costly infestation.



Top left: Bed bug fecal stains
Above: Bed bugs up close

**If you suspect bed bugs at your home
call Orkin Canada at 1-800-800-6754
for service or for more information.**



PEST CONTROL DOWN TO A SCIENCE.™

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University**