

Bed bugs

Here are some facts about bed bugs:

- they are parasites that prefer to feed on humans
- adult bed bugs are brown to reddish-brown, oval shaped and are 0.8 to 1.3 mm long
- they are fast moving insects that are nocturnal blood-feeders and use a barbed spike to pierce the skin
- they are not considered to be a health hazard as they do not transmit diseases but they are unpleasant to live with
- they are most frequently found in dwellings with a high rate of occupant turnover, such as multi-occupancy properties
- they hide during the day in small dark spaces around sleeping areas such as behind beds and around seams in mattresses
- a bed bug infestation can be recognised by blood stains from crushed bugs or by rusty coloured spots of excrement on sheets and mattresses, bed clothes, and walls

Control of bed bugs

- do not bring infested items into the home
- carefully inspect clothing and baggage of travelers, check for bed bugs and their tell-tale faecal spots
- inspect all second-hand beds, bedding, and furniture
- infested bedding and furnishings should be laundered in a hot wash - in severe cases, items of furniture will need to be removed
- have the affected areas professionally treated by either the council's pest control service or a private company