

Best practices to prevent bed bugs.

As master hitchhikers, bed bugs can show up in nearly any business. Educate your team to spot activity early and help reduce the risk of a disruptive infestation.

Identification and behavior.

- Mature bed bugs are about the size of an appleseed, typically under ¼-inch long, with a distinct brown to reddish-brown color.
- A single female can deposit up to 20 eggs weekly, potentially leading to 1,000 new bed bugs every year.
- While visible, nymphs and small pearly-white eggs are often overlooked due to their minute size and hidden locations.
- Bed bug fecal spotting appears as dark, mildew-like marks on mattresses and box springs, often concentrated along seams and tags.
- Bed bugs utilize small gaps, furniture crevices, and wall voids as primary harborages during daylight hours.

Common locations and trouble spots.

- Sleeping areas like hotel rooms, dorms, and senior living residences are common bed bug trouble spots because they give bed bugs extended access to resting people.
- Employee locker rooms and storage areas often act as transition points where bed bugs can move from personal items and belongings into the rest of your facility.
- Break rooms, lounges, and lobbies are frequent secondary introduction sites since bed bugs easily hitchhike into these gathering spots on personal bags or clothing.
- Bed bugs are also known to hide in furniture joints, wall crevices, and structural voids.
- Shared tools like service carts and vacuums can unintentionally spread hitchhiking bed bugs throughout your business.

Best practices for prevention.

- Train your team to know how to identify bed bugs and signs of activity. An educated team is your first line of defense.
- Keep personal item storage areas and lockers organized and accessible to support routine inspection and service by your pest management professional.
- Thoroughly inspect all incoming items and institute a strict quarantine period for any suspect inventory to prevent hitchhiking bed bugs from entering the building.
- Minimize clutter in sleeping and resting areas to help reduce hiding places and support more effective professional inspections.
- Systematically seal gaps and cracks where bed bugs might hide, prioritizing high-risk areas like baseboards and outlets.
- Use mattress encasements to protect mattresses and box springs while helping reduce the likelihood of infestation.

To learn more or schedule a free consultation, call 877.764.0007, or visit rentokil.com/us

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