

# Bed Bugs

Carolyn Schaefer RN  
Polk County Health Department



# Bed Bugs

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- How big is the problem?
- What do they look like?
- Where do they hide?
- How do we get rid of them?



# Bed Bugs

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- How big is the problem?
  - Common problem in US until WWII era – until DDT
  - Re-emerged during late 1990s in US, Australia, Canada and UK – mostly found in hotel rooms
  - Spreading across US at rapid rate

# Bed Bugs

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- Factors contributing to bed bug resurgence
  - Excellent hitchhikers
  - Widespread travel
  - Changes in pest management (Banned DDT and other dangerous pesticides)
  - Hotel rooms were regularly treated with pesticides – now using bait
  - Pesticide resistance

# Bed Bugs

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## ○ Facts:

- Very common in colonial America
- Sailing ships often infested
- No diseases associated with bed bugs
- Feed on blood of sleeping person

# Bed Bugs

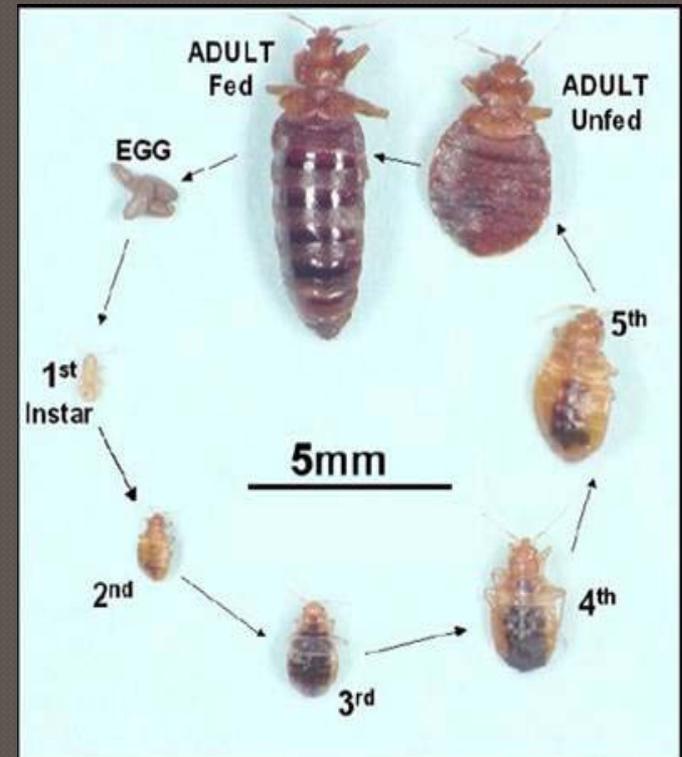
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## ◉ More facts:

- Not a clean/dirty issue
- Move easily from one apartment to another through walls
- Active at night and hide during day
- Can live for up to a year without a blood meal

# Bed Bugs

- What do they look like?
  - Bed bugs can be found in various stages of development
  - Wingless,  $\frac{1}{4}$ " long
  - About size of apple seed



# Bed Bugs

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# Bed Bugs



Photo by Phil Pellitteri, University of Wisconsin  
Department of Entomology

# Bed Bugs

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## ○ Bed Bug Bites

- Usually don't feel bug biting
- Welts appear in linear or cluster patterns
- Look like mosquito bites



# Bed Bugs

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- Tell tale signs:

What to look for

- Check mattress for brown spots
- Cording around corners of mattress make good hiding places
- Look behind headboards and in small crevices



# Bed Bugs

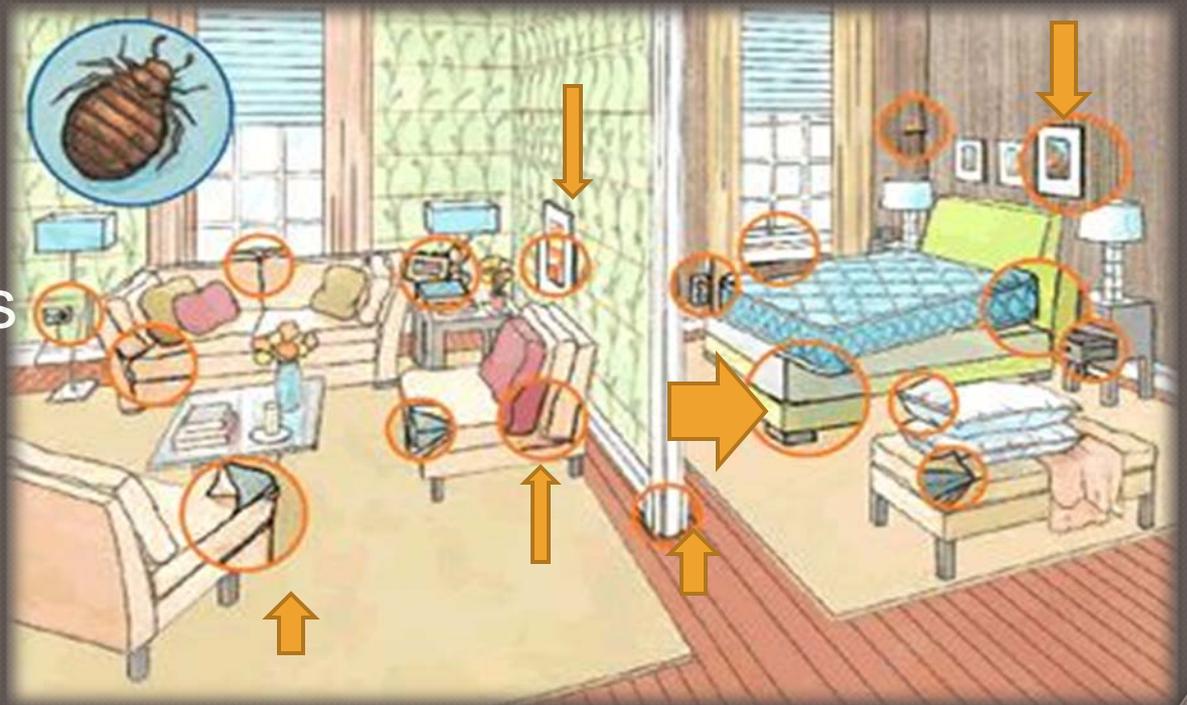
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# Bed Bugs

## ◉ Where do they hide?

- Mattresses, box springs, behind headboards
- Baseboards, especially sleeping areas
- Luggage
- Bed frames
- Furniture
- Behind pictures and wallpaper



# Bed Bugs

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- How do we get rid of bed bugs?
  - An Integrated Pest Management approach is best
  - Reduce harborage- remove clutter in infested areas
  - Seal cracks and crevices
  - Mattress encasements
  - Diatomaceous earth powder
  - Professional Pest Management
  - Heat treatment



# Bed Bugs

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## ○ Mattress Encasements

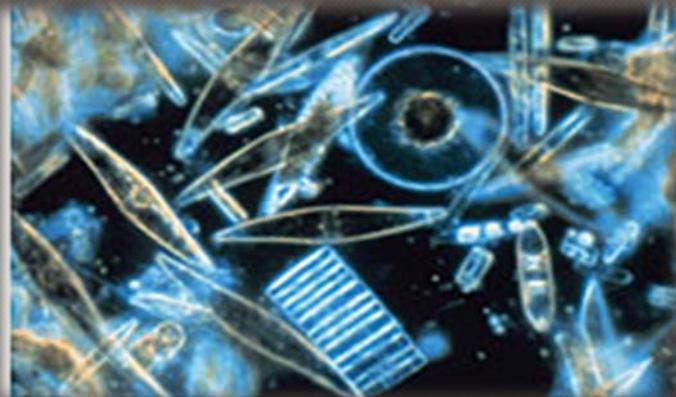
- Prevent bed bugs from biting
- Over time will rid mattress of infestation



# Bed Bugs

## ◉ Diatomaceous Earth-food grade

- Fossilized shells of tiny organisms called diatoms
- Sprinkle lightly where bugs have been noticed
- Works by scratching exoskeleton and dehydrating bug



# Bed Bugs

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## ○ Heat Treatment

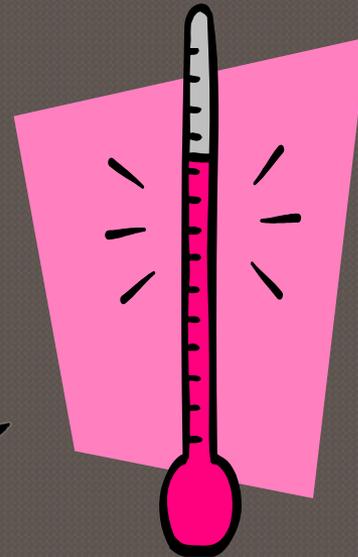
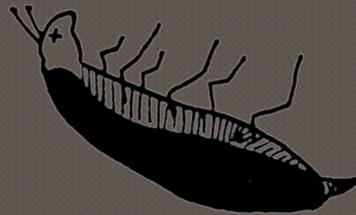
- Usually done by professionals
- Advantages:
  - Non toxic
  - Kills live insects and eggs



# Bed Bugs

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- Other advantages to Heat Treatment
  - Bugs do not build up pesticide resistance
  - Heat can penetrate deeply into cracks and crevices
  - No toxic residue



# Bed Bugs

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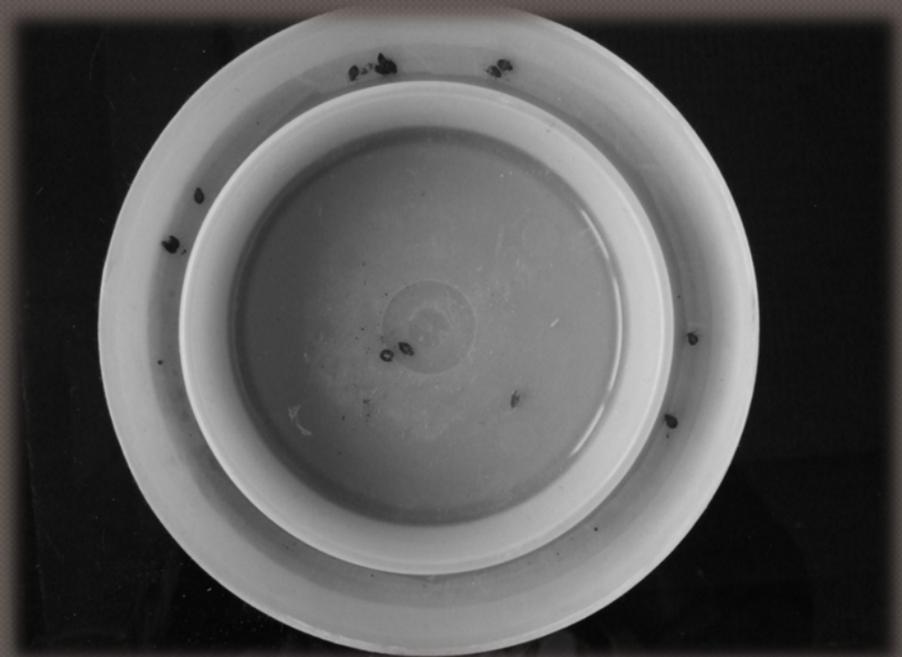
## ○ Monitoring for Bed Bugs

- Tape around leg of bed – sticky side out
- Vaseline applied around leg of bed



# Bed Bugs

- Monitoring for Bed Bugs
  - Climbup Insect Interceptors



# Bed Bugs

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- ◉ Bed Bug Sniffing Dogs
  - Used by professional exterminators



# Bed Bugs

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- Preventing an infestation
  - Check hotel room when traveling
    - Mattress, headboard, dresser
  - Keep luggage off of bed and floor
  - Keep luggage on luggage rack
  - Put laundry in plastic bags, not on bed, chairs or floor



# Bed Bugs

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- Preventing an infestation
  - Check luggage for signs of bugs before bringing into home.
  - Wash clothes immediately and dry in dryer.



# Bed Bugs

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- Do not pick up furniture from curb
- Never take a used mattress from an unknown source



# Bed Bugs

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- Getting rid of bed bugs requires perseverance and time consuming
- Need to work in partnership with pest control company for best success against severe infestation

# Bed Bugs

## ○ Questions to ask a Pest Control company before hiring.

- Is the company licensed?
- What is the proposed treatment plan?
  - *Most companies will use an Integrated Pest Management approach for bed bugs*
- Does the company have appropriate insurance?



# Bed Bugs

## ○ Questions to ask a Pest Control company before hiring.

- Ask for a list of references and call them.
- How long has the company been in business?
- Do they offer a guarantee of their work?
- Is the company affiliated with a professional pest control association? *Shows concern for quality.*

