

TIMELY INFORMATION

Agriculture & Natural Resources

EPA-Registered pesticide products for bed bug control

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While bed bugs are not known to transmit disease, their presence is unwelcome and had presented difficult challenge and distress to many people. Experts suggest the reasons for the resurgence are more international and domestic travel, lack of knowledge to prevent infestation, increased resistance to pesticide, and ineffective pest control practices.



Bed bug infestation is suspected when bites appear on a person.

Bed bug bites often occur in a unique bite pattern of a linear group of three or four, sometimes referred to as a "breakfast, lunch, dinner" pattern. Bedbug bites can occur singly but are often in this straight line pattern (Photo credit to BedBugInfo.Com)

Typical symptoms are welts and swelling that are more itchy and longer-lasting than mosquito bites.

Identifying bed bug infestation can be challenging. The signs to look for are:

- Dark spots which are bed bug excrement and may bleed on the fabric
- Live bed bugs
- Rusty or reddish stains on bed sheets or mattresses caused by bed bugs being crushed
- Eggs and eggshells, which are tiny (about 1 mm) and white

For integrated bed bug management, visit <http://www.healthyhomestraining.org/ipm/>

In general, non-chemical treatments include:

- Wash and dry bedding and clothing at high temperatures to kill bed bugs
- Heat infested articles and/or areas through to at least 113 °F (45 °C) for 1 hour.
- Cold treatment (below 0 °F [-19°C]) for at least 4 days can eliminate some infestations.

There are many methods to effectively prevent and manage infestations of bed bugs. EPA recommends:

- When traveling, use luggage racks to hold your luggage and do not place your luggage on the bed or floor.
- Upon returning home, unpack directly into a washing machine using hot water, and inspect your luggage carefully.
- Correctly identify bed bugs and bed bug infestations.
- If discovered, control should be immediately pursued by removing clutter where bed bugs hide
- Sealing cracks, encasing mattresses, vacuuming, heat treatment
- Careful use of pesticide products explicitly approved for bed bugs.

There are over 300 different products registered by EPA for use against bed bugs.

To help find a product that meets your need, EPA has developed a Bed Bug Product Search Tool at <http://cfpub.epa.gov/opprpref/bedbug/>. Follow and answer the questions online will lead you to the right product for your specific bed bug problem.