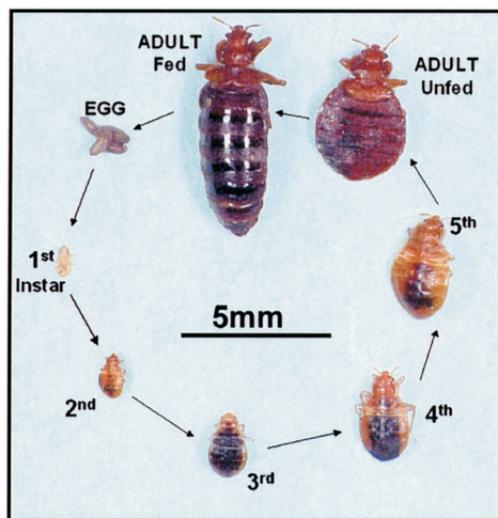


EVERYONE needs to “be aware” in order to control bed bugs. They can happen to anyone, anywhere. When dealing with bed bug control, quick action is important!!

WHAT ARE BED BUGS?

Bed bugs are small, oval, reddish-brown flattened parasites about the size of an apple seed that feed on the blood of humans and leave bites. They have no wings. They do not fly, they crawl. They hide in clothing, furniture and luggage.



Lifecycle of the Common Bed Bug, *Cimex lectularius*

WHAT ARE SIGNS OF BED BUGS?

Look closely at all bedding and furniture. Bed Bugs may be difficult to find. Look for the following:

- Blood spots on sheets or small dark spots especially in and around the seams of the mattress.
- Marks on your skin.

- Small bite marks in the morning and bites that itch. Bed bugs usually bite during the night.
- You may see live bugs in cracks of bed.

In the early stages, bed bugs can be found in seams and folds of mattresses and in bed covers. Later they spread to cracks and crevices in bed frames and boxes. If they multiply, you will find them behind: baseboards, windows, door casings, pictures, moldings, furniture, loosened wallpaper, cracks in plaster and partitions.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU SUSPECT YOU HAVE BED BUGS?

You will not be able to get rid of bed bugs on your own. Call Niagara Regional Housing (NRH) and report the problem immediately to your Tenant Support Representative (TSR) or Property Administrator (PA).

Do not remove anything from your unit. If necessary, **NRH will perform this task for free.** Infested items require wrapping to stop the spread of bed bugs to common areas, or other units, when being removed from your unit and the building.

A pest control technician will be called to your unit to confirm the bed bug problem. If your unit needs treatment, the pest control technician will give you instructions on how to prepare your unit for treatment.

There is no cost to the tenants for the treatment of bed bugs. Treatment depends on the combined efforts of the tenant, NRH and the pest control technician. Tenants must cooperate with NRH's efforts to control bed bugs.

HOW DO I STOP BED BUGS FROM GETTING INTO MY HOME?

To lower the chance of getting bed bugs:

1. Carefully check used furniture or clothing before bringing it into your home.
2. Do not bring in furniture that has been thrown away such as mattresses, bedding, or upholstered furniture.
3. Inspect and clean box spring, mattress, bedding and clothes regularly.
4. Eliminate clutter! Getting rid of clutter will reduce hiding places & will make it easier if treatment is needed.
5. Store unused items in closed plastic containers.

NOTE:

If your mattress has been infested, you may want to buy special covers for your box spring and mattress from your pest management contractor.