

Bed Bugs in Wisconsin

Questions and Answers

Are bed bugs found in WI?

Yes, bed bugs are found throughout Wisconsin. You should not be surprised if you find or learn about bed bugs in your community. Bed bugs can be found in private homes, hotels, resorts, apartment complexes and communal living facilities.

What are bed bugs and what do they look like?

Bed bugs (*Cimex lectularis*) are small, flat, wingless insects that feed on human and animal blood usually during the night. They are often reddish brown in color. Adult insects can be ¼ inch in length and have a shape similar to an apple seed. Nymph stages (early life stages) of this insect are roughly the same size as the small lettering on a penny.

Where do bed bugs live?


Bed bugs are most often found in areas where people live and sleep. Homes, apartments and hotel rooms are common locations in which bed bugs are found. Often they are found within 8 to 10 feet of a bed. They are experts at hiding and staying hidden. The cracks and crevices of head boards, mattresses, box springs and night stands serve as hiding places for bed bugs. Bed bug infestations are not necessarily the result of poor sanitary conditions; however, eliminating clutter will provide less area for hiding and will make treatment more successful.

How do bed bugs spread?

Bed bugs are easily introduced into a home or a residential facility. This introduction is done by bringing infested luggage, used furniture, clothing or other belongings from an infested area into a home or residential facility. Bed bugs can also travel from infested rooms or units in hotels and apartments to other rooms or units for a blood meal and they can survive for a long period of time without a blood meal.

Life Cycle of the Bed Bug

Cimex lectularis



Stage	Length	Behavior
Egg	1 mm long	
First Stage Larva	1.5 mm long	Takes blood meal then molts.
Second Stage Larva	2 mm long	Takes a blood meal then molts.
Third Stage Larva	2.5 mm long	Takes a blood meal then molts.
Fourth Stage Larva	3 mm long	Takes a blood meal then molts.
Fifth Stage Larva	4.5 mm long	Takes a blood meal then molts.
Adult	5.5 mm long	Takes repeated blood meals over several weeks.
Adult Female	6.5 mm long	Females lay up to 5 eggs per day, continuously.

What are the health concerns associated with bed bug bites?

Bed bugs bite people to feed on their blood. They are not known to spread diseases. Individuals will react differently to the bites and the reaction can range from a mild itching to a serious allergic reaction. Most people will have a small, itchy, red welt that appears one to several days after the initial bite and is similar to that of a mosquito bite. Secondary infections may occur from scratching the bite and may need medical attention. Anxiety and insomnia are additional health concerns associated with bed bug bites. Anxiety has led people to take extreme treatment measures to get rid of the bed bugs.

How do I know if I have a bed bug infestation?

The evidence you may find includes; finding bed bug bite marks on your body, finding live bed bugs on your sheets and/or mattress, bed bug shed skins (cast skins left when the insect advances to the next nymph stage), their fecal blood stains (dark colored spots left on sheets, mattresses, head boards) and possibly eggs.

What treatments are used to get rid of bed bugs?

Bed bugs are difficult pests to eliminate. Public awareness is an important part of controlling this insect. It is recommended that you use a professional pest control company to control an infestation. Professional pest control companies use a combination of treatment techniques to control the insects. These techniques may include:

- Heat treatment—heating a room and its contents to above 120 degrees Fahrenheit. This is done through the use of a specially designed and approved heating device.
- Chemical treatment—pest control companies will apply approved chemicals according to the manufacturer's instructions (specifically labeled for indoor use and designed to kill bed bugs) in cracks and crevices where bed bugs hide.
- Steam treatment—mattresses, box springs and furniture can be treated with a steam producing device. The high temperatures will kill the bed bugs
- Vacuuming—a vacuum is used to physically remove insects from infested areas.
- Bed bug trained dog—Using a bed bug dog team consisting of a trained dog and trained handler to locate bed bugs and clear a room for use.



Bed bugs and fecal blood stains on a mattress.
Photo by Phil Pellitteri, UW Madison Insect Diagnostic Lab

Treatment techniques to avoid:

- Do not misuse treatment chemicals. Direct application of chemicals to the skin and excessive chemical applications to mattresses have been responsible for chemical poisonings across the country. Manufacturer instructions must be followed.
- Do not apply chemicals labeled for *outdoor* use inside your home.
- Do not apply chemicals that are not labeled and approved for use on bed bugs.
- Do not use unvented fuel burning appliances (propane or kerosene heaters) inside your home to heat rooms.

How can I protect myself while I am traveling?

You can protect yourself from bed bugs when traveling by taking several precautions:

- Discussing what actions a hotel is taking to prevent bed bug infestations. Assure they have a plan to deal with infestations and are monitoring rooms.
- Checking the mattress, box spring, head board and other furniture within 8 to 10 feet of the bed for insects, shed skins and fecal blood stains.
- When you first walk into a hotel room, store your luggage and belongings in the bathroom or bath tub until you have found no evidence of infestation in your room.
- Placing your clothing in a dryer on the hottest setting (above 120 F) for at least twenty minutes.
- Carefully inspect your luggage and belongings for the insects or their eggs prior to returning to your home.

Who do I contact if I find an infestation?

Hotels- inform the hotel manager or housekeeping of the infestation and contact the local health department if you wish to file a complaint.

Apartments- inform your apartment manager and contact the local health department if you wish to file a complaint.

Homes- contact a professional pest control company.

Informational Links

- CDC information on bed bugs: <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/bedbugs/>
- Pest Control information: <http://www.pestworld.org/all-things-bed-bugs/>
- EPA Bed Bug Clearinghouse: <http://www.epa.gov/opp00001/bedbugs/bedbug-clearinghouse.html>
- Wisconsin Pest Control Association: <http://wisconsinpest.com/>
- Michigan Manual for Prevention and Control of Bed Bugs
http://michigan.gov/documents/emergingdiseases/Bed_Bug_Manual_v1_full_reduce_326605_7.pdf



Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Division of Food & Recreational Safety

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datcp.wi.gov



State of Wisconsin
Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Products to Control this Pest

Products which will control: **Bed Bug (adult)**

The site and pest data was supplied by the U.S. EPA., and may not accurately reflect the sites and pests on the label in your state. Please be sure to read the DIRECTIONS FOR USE on the actual label. Product labeling requirements in your state may differ from the federal requirements. Be sure to check your state's specific guidelines and requirements for all products.

Product Name	EPA Reg. No.	Registration Status	Expiration Date
<u>Patrol Insecticide</u>	100-1066	Active	12/31/2021
<u>Border</u>	100-1066	Active	12/31/2021
<u>Demand CS Insecticide</u>	100-1066	Active	12/31/2021
<u>Grenade ER Premise Insecticide</u>	100-1066-773	Active	12/31/2021
<u>Demand EZ Insecticide</u>	100-1232	Discontinued	12/31/2021
<u>Bedlam Plus</u>	1021-2569	Active	12/31/2021
<u>Nyguard Plus Flea & Tick Premise Spray</u>	1021-2580	Active	12/31/2021
<u>Advantage Household Spot & Crevice Spray</u>	1021-2597-11556	Active	12/31/2021
<u>Ortho Home Defense Bed Bug, Flea & Tick Killer</u>	1021-2597-239	Active	12/31/2021
<u>Harris Egg Kill & Resistant Bed Bug Killer</u>	1021-2597-3	Active	12/31/2021
<u>Bonide Dual Action Bedbug Killer Ready to Use</u>	1021-2597-4	Active	12/31/2021
<u>Raid Max Bed Bug Extended Protection</u>	1021-2597-4822	Active	12/31/2021
<u>Got pests...get Revenge Dual Action Bedbug Killer Ready to Use</u>	1021-2597-9086	Active	12/31/2021
<u>Harris *Since 1922* 5 Minute Bed Bug Killer</u>	1021-2780-3	Active	12/31/2021
<u>Raid Bed Bug Foaming Spray</u>	1021-2780-4822	Active	12/31/2021
<u>Raid Defend Bed Bug Foaming Spray</u>	1021-2780-4822	Active	12/31/2021
<u>Bed Bug Killer Mata Chinchas de Cama Combatmax</u>	1021-2780-64240	Active	12/31/2021
<u>Crossfire Aerosol</u>	1021-2788	Active	12/31/2021
<u>PestXpert Premium Bed Bug Killer</u>	1021-2793	Discontinued	12/31/2021
<u>Harris *Since 1922* 5 Minute Egg & Resistant Bed Bug Killer</u>	1021-2793-3	Active	12/31/2021
<u>Gordon's Aqueous Fly Spray</u>	2217-782	Active	12/31/2021
<u>Gordon's Horse & Stable Spray</u>	2217-782	Active	12/31/2021
<u>Kicker</u>	432-1145	Active	12/31/2021
<u>PT Alpine Flea & Bed Bug Pressurized Insecticide</u>	499-540	Active	12/31/2021
<u>Cyonara 9.7 Insecticide</u>	53883-145	Active	12/31/2021
<u>Cyzmic CS Controlled Release Insecticide</u>	53883-389	Active	12/31/2021
<u>NuVan Prostrips</u>	5481-553	Active	12/31/2021
<u>NuVan Prostrips +</u>	5481-554	Active	12/31/2021
<u>Lambda-CY EC Insecticide</u>	70506-120	Active	12/31/2021
<u>LambdaStar UltraCap 9.7%</u>	71532-33-91026	Active	12/31/2021
<u>CimeXa Insecticide Dust</u>	73079-12	Active	12/31/2021
<u>Helm Kendo Insecticide</u>	74530-38	Active	12/31/2021
<u>Helm Kendo 9.7 CS</u>	74530-53	Active	12/31/2021
<u>Avesta CS</u>	74530-53-5481	Active	12/31/2021
<u>Cirkil Ready-To-Use Insecticide and Ovicide</u>	88760-1	Active	12/31/2021
<u>Cirkil CX Insecticide and Ovicide Concentrate</u>	88760-2	Active	12/31/2021

Product Name	EPA Reg. No.	Registration Status	Expiration Date
Proof - Bed Bug & Dust Mite Killer	88760-6	Active	12/31/2021
Hot Shot Bedbug & Flea Home Insect Killer2	9688-297-8845	Active	12/31/2021

Total Number of Matching Products: 38

Database Last Updated: 8/3/2021

Search By: [Company Name](#) [Company ID](#) [Product Name](#) [Product EPA ID](#) [Active Ingredient](#) [Pest](#) [Site](#) [Formulation](#) [Pest-type](#) [RUP](#) [Multiple Criteria](#)

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