

- Carry along with you some extra-large zipper-seal bags to put your clothes in before returning home.
- When you get back home, immediately wash your clothes in hot water and dry them on high heat to kill any bed bugs.



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BED BUG

Q&A

for Students



Bed bugs are on the increase throughout the United States. Residence halls on this campus are routinely inspected and treated by a licensed, professional pest control service. The information below is provided to educate you about bed bugs, especially during your travels back and forth from campus and your home, as well as other places.

How do we know if our room has bed bugs?

- The primary clues to a bed bug infestation will be the presence of live bugs and/or small brown or black fecal spots on the mattress, box springs, mattress pads, or sheets.



- Although people often claim to be bitten by bed bugs, a physical sample of an actual bug or egg is required to be absolutely certain you have bed bugs.
- Insect bites may be an indicator of bed bugs, but medical professionals cannot confirm the presence of bed bugs simply by examining bites.
- The most reliable inspections for bed bugs are made by qualified pest management professionals.

We think we have found bed bugs in the room. What do we do now?

- If you are at Mississippi State University, report the event immediately via the MSU housing fix-it link. (Go to www.housing.msstate.edu, then log in via the myHousing link.)
- Inform your RA.
- A member of Housing Facilities, along with a pest management professional, will inspect and, if necessary, treat your room. DO NOT try to treat or control bed bugs on your own.

How difficult is it to get rid of bed bugs?

- Although other control measures may be implemented, pesticides will most likely be required for bed bug control. Rest assured that only EPA-registered products will be used in the room, and only the smallest amount necessary will be applied. Label directions will be carefully followed.
- Simply reducing the bed bug population in a room is not difficult, but it can be extremely difficult to eliminate every last bug in some situations. If even one adult female survives the treatment process, the room will be reinfested.



- Just moving to a different room won't eliminate bed bugs because they can go for many months without a blood meal.
- You should wash your bedding and, more importantly, dry it on the highest heat setting possible.
- The bottom line is that bed bug control requires a trained pest management professional, and this work involves labor-intensive treatment, inspection, and follow-up.

How can we avoid an infestation?

The most likely ways to introduce bed bugs into your room are through travel and by purchasing second-hand furniture or bedding. It's much easier to avoid purchasing used items than to eliminate travel. Here are some tips to avoid getting bed bugs while traveling:

- Before your trip, check out websites like www.bedbugregistry.com or www.tripadvisor.com to see if anyone has posted bed bug issues at hotels where you are headed.
- Take a flashlight and inspect the mattress and box springs before unloading your suitcases. Pull the sheets and mattress pads back to help you see better. You may place your bags in the bathroom until you're finished inspecting.
- Don't place luggage on the bed or on the luggage rack in a hotel room. Put your luggage in the bathroom area.