



Allpest Pest Awareness

Keeping you informed

Our Pest Awareness Series offer informative, easy to understand information on a range of problem pests.

We aim to keep you in control and as well as maintain a safe and healthier environment for your immediate surrounding.

Our Pest Awareness Sheet presents facts such as:

- Overview
- Ecology and Habit
- Breeding Cycle
- Health Risk

For more range on the series, please visit our website www.allpest.com.au or call us at 08 9416 0200

ALLPEST
WE CARE ABOUT YOUR FAMILY



Bed Bugs (*Cimex lectularius*)

Overview

Bed bugs are insects belonging to the Order Hemiptera. Adult bedbugs are usually 4-6mm long, wingless, rusty red brown colored and oval shaped. Their body shapes are normally flattened, but can be rather expanded and ovoid after a blood meal.

Ecology

In infested premises, bedbugs may hide in cracks and crevices of furniture, behind skirtings, architraves, books and in bedding especially in grooves and alongside piping in the mattress.

Lifecycle

Female may lay up to 200 - 500 eggs in her lifetime. The eggs will hatch in 7 - 30 days and the nymphs will need at least one blood meal between moults before reaching adulthood. Adult bedbugs may live for over a year and are able to survive for several months without a blood meal.

Habits

Bed bugs are nocturnal bloodsuckers at all stages of their life cycle development. Higher temperature in a host will assist the bed bugs to locate their probable blood meal source. Their most important host are humans, but in some cases, cats and other animals may serve for feeding as well.

They mostly feed during the night, and become inactive during the day while digesting the blood meal. However, they may feed during the day as well, if they are starved for a period of time.

Health Risks

The activity of bedbugs is usually detected by the irritation caused to sleepers. Bedbugs have a tendency to "test bite", which often results in a line of bites. For some people, the bite is painless, however, most people react with local swelling followed by a mild to severe itching and irritation.

To date, bed bugs have not been implicated with any serious disease transmission.



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