

# Tips for Bed Bug Prevention and Control

<p><b><u>Correctly Identify the Insect:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• See <i>photos on reverse</i></li><li>• Contact Ohio State University's Pest Diagnostic Clinic (ppdc.osu.edu)</li></ul>	<p><b><u>Travelers' Tips:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>When preparing to leave:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Travel very light</li><li>* Put all items into tightly sealed plastic bags inside suitcase</li><li>* Be sure to take extra plastic bags so you can isolate clean, dirty, and newly purchased clothing</li></ul></li><li>• <b>During your trip:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Carefully inspect your room for signs of bed bugs</li><li>* Change rooms if you find any signs of bed bugs</li><li>* Never store luggage on the floor or bed</li><li>* Keep your clothes in your suitcases, not in provided chest-of-drawers</li></ul></li><li>• <b>When arriving home:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Do NOT take luggage inside bedrooms or living rooms</li><li>* If possible, launder all clothing in your luggage</li><li>* Store empty luggage inside sealed plastic bags</li></ul></li></ul>
<p><b><u>Bed Bug Habits:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prefer to feed at night on human blood</li><li>• Hide during the day</li><li>• Hide in cracks, crevices and dark places</li><li>• Cannot fly, but walk very fast</li><li>• Can survive several months without feeding if a host is absent</li></ul>	<p><b><u>Control:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Act immediately</li><li>• Eliminate clutter</li><li>• Caulk or seal cracks and crevices</li><li>• Launder bedding, clothes, etc.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Wash in hot water (120°F [49°C] minimum)</li><li>* Drier set on medium to hot setting (30 minutes minimum)</li><li>* Confine clean items inside sealed plastic bags</li></ul></li><li>• Do not use "bug bombs"</li><li>• Do-it-yourself bed bug control is very difficult</li><li>• Consider hiring an exterminator<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Make sure the exterminator is licensed</li><li>* Get at least 3 estimates before choosing an exterminator</li><li>* Bed bug control takes considerable time and effort</li></ul></li></ul>
<p><b><u>Inspecting for Bed Bugs:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use a bright flashlight</li><li>• Look for the bugs and their dark spotting and shed skins (<i>see photos on reverse</i>)</li><li>• Carefully inspect bedrooms and main living areas where people rest or sleep, focusing on:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Mattress seams, box springs, and bed frame</li><li>* Behind hanging pictures, baseboards, moldings, and loosened wallpaper</li><li>* Inside electronics (e.g., smoke detectors, thermostats, electrical outlets, etc.)</li><li>* Top, sides, underside, and interior of furniture</li><li>* Carpet tack strip (underneath carpet edges)</li></ul></li></ul>	