



Bed bug bites on a woman's arm

Resident's Responsibility

- If you spot bed bugs, **immediately** contact Muncie Housing Authority management!
- Keep your home clean and clutter-free.
- Don't try to solve the problem yourself by using foggers or "bug bombs".
- Carefully follow the pest management professional's recommendations.

For more information:

Southern Pines

(765) 282-2050

Earthstone Terrace

(765) 282-7660

Gillespie Tower

(765) 747-9554

MHA Administration Office

(765) 288-9242

Visit our website

www.muncieha.com



MHA Form-024

What You Need to Know About Bed Bugs!





Bed bug on human skin

What are bed bugs?

Bed bugs are tiny insects ranging in size from 1/32" [first stage nymph], to just less than 1/4" [adult size]. They need a blood meal in order to molt and survive. They feed about once per week, but can go long periods of time without a meal.

What causes bed bug infestations?

Bed bugs are excellent hitchhikers. Most infestations begin when someone brings them into the home. They move from place to place by attaching themselves to clothing, furniture, luggage, boxes, etc.

Bed bug infestations are not caused by poor sanitary conditions. They can live in clean environments as well as dirty, but clutter often provides undisturbed areas for the bed bugs to nest and breed. Failure to detect an infestation early can make the bed bug problem worsen over time.

How do bed bugs spread?

Bed bugs are usually brought into your home in suitcases and handbags and on clothing and furniture, especially previously used mattresses and other items.

They can also travel between apartments in a building. There's no need to be embarrassed if these bugs end up moving in with you. Bed bugs are not necessarily associated with dirty environments but they flourish in clutter.

How do I prevent them?



Vacuum your home regularly. If you do have bed bugs, make sure you close the vacuum bag tightly and dispose of it outside your home.



Avoid picking up used mattresses or second hand upholstered furniture because it's hard to see whether they harbor bed bugs.



Other used furniture must be carefully inspected and cleaned before you bring it home. Scrub furniture with soapy water or a household cleaning product to remove any possible bed bugs or their eggs.



Second-hand clothing should be placed in a sealed, plastic bag and emptied directly into the washing machine. Wash in hot water and dry on high heat setting to kill bed bugs and their eggs.



When visiting hotels inspect the room for signs of bed bugs prior to unpacking luggage.

I found bed bugs or bed bug evidence! Now what should I do?

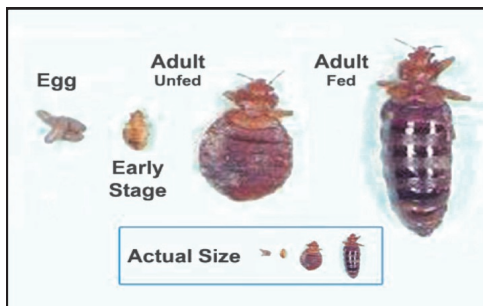
Don't be hasty and toss your clothes and furniture away. They can be saved with the procedures available today.

Contact MHA management at the proper office immediately and tell them what you have found.

Muncie Housing Authority will conduct a thorough inspection of your home and belongings and provide you with an assessment of the situation along with a course of action to handle and eliminate the problem.

Pest Management

The best chance for residents to achieve bed bug control is by acting fast and working with MHA and a qualified, licensed pest management professional. Bed bug control will fail without the cooperation of all parties involved.



Blood spots, bed bugs, and cast skins may be found on the mattress seam.

Preparing your home for the pest management professional

This step is extremely important. Closely follow the pest management professional's guidelines. Below are a few tips to keep in mind.



Vacuum and dispose of the vacuum bag [outside the home]. If a bagless vacuum is used, deposit all contents of the container into a plastic bag, seal and dispose of outside. Rinse collection container outside before re-attaching to vacuum.



Empty dresser drawers and closets and place contents in a sealed plastic bag. Wash and/or dry clothes on high heat setting.



Don't bring home new furniture until bed bugs are eliminated.



Remove clutter as it provides hiding places for bed bugs.



Place all bedding [sheets, mattress covers, bedspreads] in a sealed, plastic bag. Wash all bedding in hot water.

Important

- Avoid bringing home discarded furniture or second hand items because they may be infested with bed bugs.