



How to Inspect for Bed Bugs

According to pest management professionals (PMP), the number of bed bug-related service calls has increased to more than 400% in the past five years. Bed bug infestations are occurring in hotels, apartments, nursing homes, upscale commercial office buildings, school classrooms, dormitories, and the list goes on. The basic bed bug damage claim encompasses property damage as well as pain and suffering (physical and emotional). In addition, most property owners are concerned about the potential negative impact to their reputation. After all, who would want to rent a room or reside in an apartment/nursing home after hearing it had a bed bug infestation?

Tools and Equipment

Bed bugs are small, and identifying their presence requires some basic tools and equipment. Recommended equipment includes: a magnifying glass, a flashlight, plastic zip-top bags for collecting specimens; a probe, such as a credit card cut into a long triangle for checking narrow spaces; compressed air for flushing bed bugs from cracks and crevices; a screwdriver to remove light switch cover plates; alcohol, glass-cleaner or baby wipes to confirm that stains are bed bug droppings.

The inspection process should be thorough and, initially, focused on the bedroom. The intent is to look for signs of bed bugs, check for their hiding places, and ultimately to confirm the presence of the insect. This checklist is designed to be used as a tool for bed bug inspection.

Next Steps

The solution to a bed bug problem requires a series of steps that begins with confirming the presence of the insect. If the presence or evidence of bed bugs is found, contact a PMP to do a thorough survey. Several cycles of inspection, cleaning, and treatment may be required before bed bugs are eliminated.

Identification

	Yes	No	N/A
Is there evidence of bugs or brown spots (dried blood) around the seams and tufts of a mattress?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are bed bugs or brown staining visible between the folds of draperies or curtains?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there signs of infestation underneath chairs, couches, beds, and dustcovers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the bed frame checked thoroughly, even in the cracks and screw housings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do gaps behind baseboards, pictures, window and door casings, wallpaper, and other 'shelters' harbor bed bugs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do nightstands, dressers, etc. show evidence of bed bugs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do doors and window casings show evidence of bed bug infestation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has the area behind the electrical switch plate been checked for infestation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Were telephones, radios, clocks, and similar places checked for the presence of bed bugs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Recordkeeping

Have there been complaints about bed bug bites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If so, were the complaints documented, including the investigation activities taken by management?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



- Were inspections completed in adjacent units, including the unit above and below the unit where the complaint about bed bugs was received?
- Are treatment records kept, including dates and locations of various housekeeping and pest control activities?
- Are records of actions taken to resolve the problem maintained and inclusive of findings after treatments?

COPYRIGHT ©2010, ISO Services, Inc.

CH-40-19 5/13/10

The information, suggestions and recommendations contained herein are for general informational purposes only. This information has been compiled from sources believed to be reliable. Risk Consulting Services do not address every possible loss potential, law, rule, regulation, practice or procedure. No warranty, guarantee, or representation, either expressed or implied, is made as to the correctness or sufficiency of any such service. Reliance upon, or compliance with, any recommendation in no way guarantees any result, including without limitation the fulfillment of your obligations under your insurance policy or as may otherwise be required by any laws, rules or regulations. No responsibility is assumed for the discovery and/or elimination of any hazards that could cause accidents, injury or damage. The information contained herein should not be construed as financial, accounting, tax or legal advice and does not create an attorney-client relationship.

This document is not intended to replace any recommendations from your equipment manufacturers. If you are unsure about any particular testing or maintenance procedure, please contact the manufacturer or your equipment service representative.

American International Group, Inc. (AIG) is a leading global insurance organization. AIG member companies provide a wide range of property casualty insurance, life insurance, retirement solutions, and other financial services to customers in more than 80 countries and jurisdictions. These diverse offerings include products and services that help businesses and individuals protect their assets, manage risks and provide for retirement security. AIG common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Additional information about AIG can be found at www.aig.com | YouTube: www.youtube.com/aig | Twitter: [@AIGinsurance](https://twitter.com/AIGinsurance) www.twitter.com/AIGinsurance | LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/aig. These references with additional information about AIG have been provided as a convenience, and the information contained on such websites is not incorporated by reference into this document.

AIG is the marketing name for the worldwide property-casualty, life and retirement, and general insurance operations of American International Group, Inc. For additional information, please visit our website at www.aig.com. All products and services are written or provided by subsidiaries or affiliates of American International Group, Inc. Products or services may not be available in all countries and jurisdictions, and coverage is subject to underwriting requirements and actual policy language. Non-insurance products and services may be provided by independent third parties. Certain property-casualty coverages may be provided by a surplus lines insurer. Surplus lines insurers do not generally participate in state guaranty funds, and insureds are therefore not protected by such funds.

© American International Group, Inc. All rights reserved.