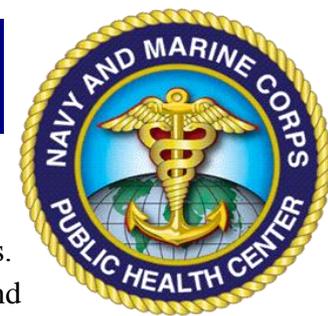




Bed Bugs: A NECE Fact Sheet



What are bed bugs?

- **Bed bugs** are reddish-brown, wingless insects (1-7mm long) that feed on the blood of mammals (humans) and birds. They don't fly but crawl quickly over floors, walls, and ceilings.
- **Bed bugs** will bite all over the body especially exposed skin such as the face, neck, arms, and hands.



Photo by G. D. Alpert

How do I get bed bugs?

- The spread of bed bugs is usually passive – the bugs or their eggs are unknowingly introduced on furniture, bedding, luggage, clothing or cardboard boxes.
- The bugs will frequently move from an already infested room to adjacent rooms or floors.

Bed bug treatments are costly and labor intensive. Immediate action should be taken if an infestation is discovered.

Are there ways to prevent an infestation?

Bed bug infestations can be prevented by:

1. Inspecting luggage and other personal items for bed bugs.
2. Thoroughly examining furniture and clothing items before you take them into your house, barracks, or ship.
3. Sealing cracks and crevices to eliminate harborage.



Photo by Dr. Harold Harlan

What are signs of an infestation?

- Live bugs
 - Dark fecal spots or light rusty spots on linens
 - Eggs or cast skins.
- If any of these signs are observed, immediate action is necessary.

Who can I contact for assistance?

- Your local Preventive Medicine Department
- Navy Entomology Center of Excellence, Naval Air Station Jacksonville, FL 32212-0043 Phone: 904-542-2424

For more information see:

Armed Forces Pest Management Board Technical Guide 44: Bed bugs, Importance, Biology, and Control Strategies. <http://www.afpmb.org/sites/default/files/pubs/techguides/tg44.pdf>

Navy Environmental Preventive Medicine Unit 2, Shipboard Guide to Bed Bug Control http://www.afpmb.org/sites/default/files/pubs/techguides/Bedbug_Pamphlet_TriFold.pdf



Photo by Dr. Harold Harlan

Bed bug and fecal spots

