



COMMAND PEST CONTROL

Information sheet number 40 - The Bedbug



Appearance:

Adult: strongly depressed; oval body; reddish brown; length females: 4-8 mm; males are slightly smaller. They are normally mahogany red brown but become purple after feeding. The legs are clawed to allow them to climb rough surfaces.

Breeding:

Their eggs are slightly curved pearly white and 0.8-1.3mm long. They are laid in the hidden areas and cemented to the surface. Three eggs laid per day and approximately 200 over the life. They hatch into nymphs after 10 /20 days. Five moults are normal and one blood feed is needed before each moult. Development rate depends on the temperature and food availability:

Egg to adult is usually 9-18 weeks (depending on room temperature). This period is shorter during warmer periods. They have 2-4 generations per year. If they have fed then they can survive for up to a year at low temperatures, without feeding

Food:

Bed bugs feed at night and at a distance are able to detect host's body heat. Once they have found a host, they inject saliva to cause irritation and swelling. They then feed on blood for up to 10 minutes ingesting up to seven times their own weight retreating to hiding places excrement stains, cast larval skins can be found.

Where do Bedbugs live?

Head board and bed structure, Mattress-buttons, seams, Broken plaster, Peeling wallpaper, Crevices in woodwork, Skirting, Flooring joints, Carpets, Picture rails.

Signs:

Excretion speckling / cast skins and an almond like smell from the stink glands

Diseases:

No actual disease is carried by this insect but continued biting can cause anaemia in some circumstances when bitten constantly.

For more advice and control recommendations contact us on 01787 248049