

## Bed Bug Control

The use of a vacuum cleaner for this will prove to be more effective than the use of a duster. If the vacuum cleaner you are using has a bag then this should be removed and disposed off preferably by burning immediately upon finishing cleaning to prevent any eggs hatching and any bugs escaping back into the premises.

### Insecticidal

To eradicate the infestation, it will be necessary to treat the premises thoroughly with suitable insecticides, including the beds, any other furniture and harbourages in the fabric of the infested room(s). A professional pest control officer should be employed to carry out this work as it does require a professional approach.


#### Customer Services

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[www.babergh.gov.uk/babergh/pests](http://www.babergh.gov.uk/babergh/pests)

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## Bed Bug Control

Advice to Householders



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### Characteristics

The adults bed bugs are 5mm long, have a flattened oval shape, are reddish brown in colour, becoming purple after feeding, they have well developed antennae, prominent simple eyes and clawed feet. Their feet enable them to climb rough surfaces.



ADULT BED BUG

### Behaviour

Bed bugs can't fly. They must either crawl or be transported in either clothing, luggage, books furniture etc. They can survive for many months without feeding and are widely distributed throughout the world. They will invade any household. However they are more likely to occur in a premises with a low standard of hygiene and overcrowding.

Bed bugs tend to hide away in cracks and crevices, coming out at night and they tend to feed on their hosts just before dawn. They are not regarded as disease carriers, but their blood feeding can cause severe irritation in some people resulting in loss of sleep, lack of energy and listlessness, particularly in children.

The bite often gives rise to a hard whitish swelling which distinguishes it from a fleabite, which leaves a red spot. Bed bug excrement gives a characteristic speckled appearance to their harbourages, whilst their 'stink' glands confer a very distinctive and unpleasant almond-like smell to infested rooms.

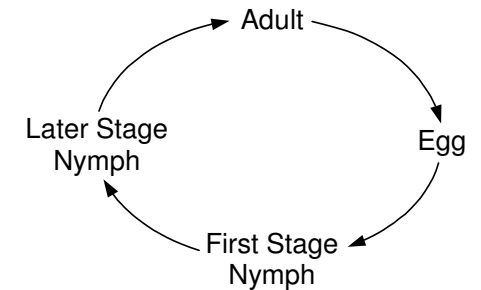
## Bed Bug Control

### Significance

Bed bugs are becoming an increasing problem once again. This is perceived to be due to the following reasons: - modern building techniques which allow easy access between properties; the increased use of central heating which allows them to breed all the year round, the increased sale of second hand furniture; and an increase in world wide travel especially to backpacker hostels and similar establishments.

### Life cycle

After mating, the female will lay 2-3 eggs, every day for the rest of her life, which may be up to 6 months. The eggs will hatch at 20°C after about ten days. The nymphs will go through five stages before becoming adults. It takes approximately 6 weeks to complete the five nymph stages.



### Hygiene and management

High standards of hygiene are unlikely to be an adequate control on their own. However they will help to monitor any infestation and to show the location of harbourages. If you suspect a bed bug infestation, a close inspection of the mattress, particularly around the seams and the back of the headboard should reveal their presence. The use of a pyrethroid-based aerosol sprayed lightly round the room in accordance with the label instructions, may help as the bugs will be displaced from their hiding places. The finding off eggs, bugs or egg cases as well as the excrement, will indicate their presence and any infected bedding should be laundered and tumble dried (if possible) or burnt and the infected room thoroughly cleaned especially any cracks in furniture, ensuring that all dust and fluff is removed.