

Vikane® Gas Fumigant for Eliminating Bed Bugs

Facts You Need To Know About Bed Bugs...

What do bed Bugs look like?

Adults of the common bed bug (*Cimex lectularius*) are about ¼ inch long, reddish to dark brown in color with flattened bodies. They can not fly, but can run quickly. Eggs and newly hatched nymphs are pale and very tiny – the size of a pin head.

Adult bed bug (Photo courtesy of University of Florida, IFAS)



How do bed bugs spread? Bed bugs are spread easily by “hitchhiking” on all types of household items, such as clothing, bedding, furniture, luggage, back packs, and animal cages. Although Bed bugs prefer to infest wood and fabric to metal and plastic surfaces, they have been found infesting electronic devices, such as alarm clocks, and hollow perches in bird cages.

What do bed bugs feed on? The common bed bug prefers to feed on humans, but can feed on a wide range of warm-blooded animals, including cats, dogs, birds, rabbits, and rodents. Bed bugs do not stay on the host. They move from hiding places in bedding, furniture, cages, and other nearby cracks and crevices to feed briefly on people and pets at night. Adults can live more than a year without a blood meal.

What are signs of infestation by bed bugs?

Look for the following:

- Red, welt-like bites that itch and occur while sleeping (bed bugs feed at night)
- Live bed bugs, eggs, molted skins of bed bugs, and dark brown or rusty spots (excrement) are indications of infestations.
- Bed bugs hide and lay eggs in mattress seams, box springs, bedding, head boards, picture frames, sofas, furniture, carpeting, drapes, and any crack and crevice the width of a business card.



