

TIDEWATER PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION

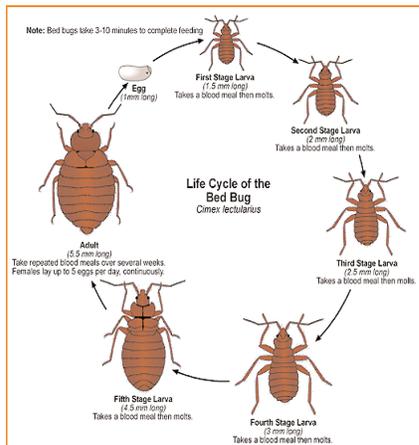
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“...bedbugs are becoming a problem once again.” Mayo Clinic



There isn't a day that goes by that the headlines don't scream that bed bugs are on the rise. There are several reasons for this new infestation. The restriction on certain pesticides, more travel and of course lack of consumer knowledge. Your Tidewater Pest Control Association (TPCA) is here to help the businesses and residences of Southeast Virginia understand and control this rising epidemic. The stark truth is, this is a very serious issue. As reported on the **CBS News** in August of 2010, *"America is suddenly crawling with these critters because they've developed a resistance to most pesticides."* The pesticide DDT eradicated the bed bugs from most industrial nations decades ago. However DDT was banned in 1972.



Bed bugs are really nasty little creatures, and as pesky as they are, they're also stealthy. Here are some cool tips to detect those irritating bugs.

Look for Live Bugs or Search for Their Waste.

The first sign bed bugs are present in your bed is their waste. Bed bugs, like any other insects are very hard to find but they always leave something behind. One of the biggest indicators that your mattress is infested with bed bugs is their droppings. Search your mattress for dark spots that can either be solid feces, eggs, shed skins and blood blots. If you find a handful, then there are more bed bugs than you expected. If you still want solid proof that there are bed bugs around, then you may want to stay up late and see them for yourself. Bed bugs are nocturnal creatures, so have a flashlight with you when you go to sleep. Turn the lights off, with the flashlight, watch the bedbugs slowly creep through your sheets. This, however, does not guarantee a 100% sighting especially if you only have a few. Killing bed bugs yourself can be a daunting task. Call a **TPCA** professional today if you suspect bed bug infestation.

A TPCA member can educate you on how to prevent infestations. There are seven simple activities that you can do to keep bedbugs out of your house.

- 1) Know what the telltale signs are of bedbugs.
- 2) Be diligent about inspecting your clothes and sheets.
- 3) Inspect the mattress and box springs of the hotel bed when traveling.
- 4) Don't place suitcases on beds.
- 5) Put travel bags in the dryer whenever possible.
- 6) Unload travel bags in the garage, laundry room or mud room, NOT in your bedroom.
- 7) Inspect every purchase from thrift-stores carefully.

An infestation can be serious. As the National Geographic pointed out, in August of 2010 *"...you may get 500 bites in a single night."* Having a bedbug problem is no fun. If you suspect that you may have bed bugs call a trusted **TPCA** company immediately. The sooner that one of our members comes out to investigate the sooner the problems will disappear. **The Tidewater Pest Control Association** has educational and training programs for all our members, so that they have the newest and most effective solutions to eradicate bedbugs safely and permanently.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF OUR ACTIVE MEMBERS.
WWW.TPCA.NET**

