

VECTOR CONTROL BRANCH  
Hawaii Department of Health

# BEDBUGS

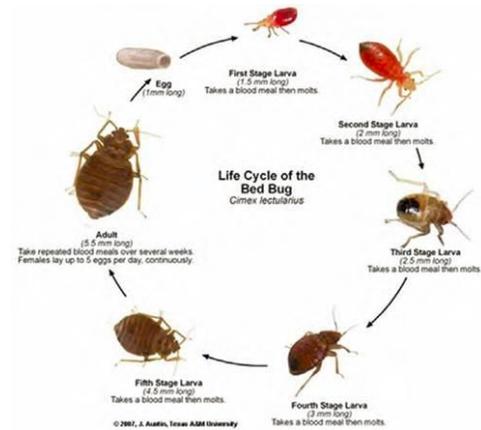
Humans are the bedbug's primary host, but it will feed on the blood of poultry, rodents, dogs, and cats in the absence of people. They are usually night feeders, but will attach during the day in theaters, offices, or restrooms where no hosts are present at night. There is no evidence that bedbugs transmit any disease to humans.

## SIGNS OF BEDBUG INFESTATION

Bites usually occur in bed and are often not felt because they are relatively painless. The appearance of welts from bites upon awakening, and the presence of blood spots on bedsheets are signs of a bedbug infestation. These blood spots are actually bedbug feces. Confirmation of an infestation may be made by flushing them out of cracks and crevices of bed frames, furniture, walls and floors with a spray from an aerosol insecticide labeled for use against flying insects.

## LIFE CYCLE

Eggs are laid in cracks and crevices of beds, furniture, walls, floors and electrical outlets. Nymphs that hatch from these eggs must have a blood meal after each of the five growth stages they undergo to become adults. Both males and females feed on blood but for females a blood meal is necessary each time they lay eggs. Development from egg to adult takes 5-8 weeks under ideal conditions. The life span of adults is 9-18 months.



## CONTROL METHODS

Aerosol insecticides labeled for use against flying insects are used for treating the seams and buttons of mattresses. DO NOT TREAT MATTRESSES OF CHILDREN AND INFANTS. Cracks and crevices elsewhere are treated with an aerosol labeled for use against cockroaches and ants. Apply insecticides only to edges of electrical outlet plates to prevent shocks and short circuits.

## **PREVENTIVE CONTROL**

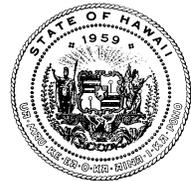
Bedbugs are often transported into homes with the purchase of used furniture, particularly mattresses and bed frames. Second-hand furniture of unknown origin should be treated for bedbugs as a precautionary measure.

**CAUTION:** *Certain pesticides and their solvents may cause respiratory irritation. Persons with respiratory diseases should consult their physicians before using any pesticide. IT IS A VIOLATION OF FEDERAL LAW IF PESTICIDES ARE NOT APPLIED EXACTLY AS THE LABEL DIRECTS.*

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