

BEDBUG EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

Per A.R.S. 33-1319, landlords are required to provide their tenants with educational information about bedbugs: how to identify them, precautions against bringing them into your home, and protocol for getting rid of them.

Please be advised this education material is not comprehensive and does not in any way hold the landlord liable for an infestation of bedbugs.

HOW TO IDENTIFY A BEDBUG

Bedbugs are reddish brown, flat, and oval. They range in size from 1 to 7 millimeters. Other evidence of an infestation includes fecal droppings (brown or black stains that look like pepper flakes), shed skins, and tiny, translucent eggs. Also, you will probably begin to notice blood stains wherever the pests are residing (mattresses, sheets, furniture).

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST BEDBUGS

One very common way for bedbugs to find their way into your home is in your suitcase. While staying in a hotel room, many people leave their suitcase open on the bed, floor, or sofa, making it very easy for the pests to find their way in and travel to a new home. Keep your luggage on luggage racks as much as possible, and clean your suitcase and clothes as soon as you get home. A hard-shelled suitcase is preferable to a soft one. Also, as soon as you get to your hotel room, examine it for evidence of bedbugs using the signs listed above. Needless to say, if you discover bedbugs or evidence of bedbugs, do not stay in that hotel!

Other precautions include the following: Never bring any sort of upholstered furniture or mattress into your home from off the street. If you are buying used furniture, check it first for bedbugs. If you suspect you have been around bedbugs, wash and dry your clothes on hot settings as soon as possible, or seal everything in a plastic bag if you aren't able to wash them right away.

PROTOCOL FOR GETTING RID OF BEDBUGS

As soon as you suspect you are living with bedbugs, call a pest control company. Over-the-counter foggers and bug bombs are not effective against this type of bug. It is recommended that you clean everything as thoroughly as possible with hot and soapy water, but that is still not an acceptable substitute for professional pest control. This problem will not go away on its own and will only get worse if left untreated.