

PEST OF THE QUARTER

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PEST CONTROL DOWN TO A SCIENCE.®

BED BUGS

Bed bugs are a growing problem in businesses across the country. They are known to hitchhike into businesses on the personal belongings of visitors and employees. Nocturnal in nature, bed bugs come out at night to feed on human blood.

WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE

Bed bugs are small, flat, wingless insects about the size of an apple seed. They are reddish-brown in color and appear swollen and red after a blood meal.

WHY THEY'RE A THREAT

- Bed bugs are resilient. They can survive many months in cool conditions without feeding.
- Bed bugs are typically in hiding during the daytime, so it's difficult to spot them.
- Bed bugs can reproduce quickly, so it's critical to detect introductions and treat them as soon as possible.
- Bed bug bites can cause mild to serious skin reactions.

SIGNS OF BED BUG ACTIVITY

Bed bugs like to hide in soft furniture and in cracks in the baseboards. Look for the following signs:

- live bed bugs
- cast skins (empty shells bed bugs shed as they grow)
- fecal smears (tiny, ink-colored stains they leave behind)
- bed bug bites



PREVENTION TIPS

Bed bugs cannot be completely prevented because people can bring them into an establishment at any time on their personal belongings. Early detection and treatment is the best way to reduce the chances of a costly infestation.

- Keep an eye out for potential hiding places (e.g., buckling wallpaper or carpet) or conditions that attract bed bugs like heat.
- Establish a bed bug risk management plan.
- Educate your employees about the signs of bed bugs and how to report any issues.
- If bed bugs are suspected, contact your pest management professional immediately.

TOP BED BUG CITIES

Orkin recently released its annual Top 50 Bed Bug Cities list, based on the number of bed bug treatments Orkin performed in each metro area from Dec. 1, 2016 – Nov. 30, 2017. Is your city on the list? [Click here](#) to find out.

You can also find 100 facts about bed bugs in Orkin's [bed bug e-book](#).

For more information about bed bug detection and treatment, visit orkincommercial.com.