

4. Bed bugs are a serious community issue, and ALL students are expected to comply with all instructions given to them within 24 hours once bed bugs have been confirmed within their living space.

What are bedbugs?



* Not to scale (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bedbug>)

- Bedbugs are small nocturnal insects that live by feeding on the blood of humans and other warm-blooded hosts. The adult bedbug is 1/4 inch long, 1/8 inch wide (about the size of an apple seed) and reddish brown. It is flattened from top to bottom, with an oval body that is well adapted for hiding in narrow crevices. The body may become greatly enlarged and blood-red during a blood meal, but it subsequently turns a dirty brown. Bedbugs lack wings and cannot fly, but they are very mobile.
- Bedbugs are generally active at night or dawn, with a peak feeding period approximately an hour before sunrise. After feeding for five to fifteen minutes, the bug returns to its hiding place. They typically walk undetected across human skin.
- Bites consist of a raised red bump or flat welt, and are often accompanied by intense itching. The red bump or welts are the result of an allergic reaction to the anesthetic contained in the bedbug's saliva, which is inserted into the blood of the host. Bedbug bites may appear indistinguishable from mosquito bites, although they tend to last for longer periods. Bites may not become immediately visible and can take up to 9 days to appear. Bedbug bites tend not to have a red dot in the center which is a characteristic of flea bites. A trait shared with flea bites, however, is the tendency towards arrangements of sequential bites. Bites are often aligned three in a row, giving rise to the colloquialism "breakfast, lunch and dinner."
- There have been no known cases of bedbugs passing disease from host to host. Extensive testing has been performed in laboratory settings which confirm this finding. Therefore, bedbugs are less dangerous than some more common insects such as the flea.
- To move from egg through adult and egg again under ideal conditions (75 to 80 percent relative humidity, 83 to 90 degrees F) may take four to five weeks; under less optimal conditions such as lower temperature and/or with fewer blood meals, development time may be longer. Adults can live several months (some say more than a year) and nymphs for three months without feeding. Under typical conditions with a host (food supply), a bedbug may be able to live more than 300 days.

