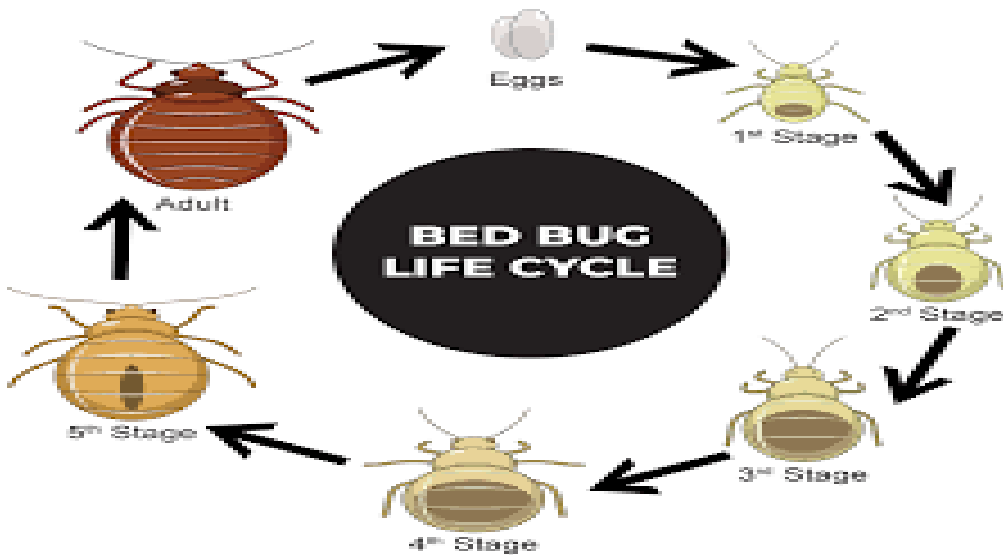


Bed Bugs (*Cimex lectularius*)



Size: Adults measure 3/16 inch long.

Characteristics: Oval and flat. Bed bugs are amber to reddish brown in color, depending on how recently they fed. When present in sufficient numbers, it is possible to detect an obnoxiously sweet or foul “locker room” odor, which is emitted from their glands.

Habitat: This insect stays from its close association with human sleeping beds where it often seeks refuge during daylight, only to come out to feed on the bed’s occupant(s) at night. The bed bug is an ectoparasite of primarily humans but will also attack poultry, caged and invasive birds and various mammals, including rodents.

Biology: Female bed bugs lay 1 to 5 eggs per day with the 1/32 inch long, white eggs being deposited individually in cracks or on rough surfaces and secured with a transparent cement for an average total of 200 eggs; maximum eggs per day is 12, with 541 for a lifetime. There are 5 nymphal instars with a blood meal required for each molt. About 3 to 10 minutes are required for each blood meal, during which saliva containing an anticoagulant is injected.

Developmental time: Egg to adult takes 21 days at 86F to 120 days. Without a blood meal, once-fed nymphs can survive an average of 51 days. Being poorly fed can greatly prolong the life cycle up to several years. With normal feeding and reproductive cycles, individuals can live up to 316 days. They remain concealed until hungry. Although the bite of bed bugs is painless, most people develop an allergic reaction to the saliva injected by the bug as it feeds. Swelling may be severe and extend beyond the immediate bite area in highly sensitive individuals. Although bed bugs have been suspect in the transmission of many diseases or disease organisms in humans, in most cases conclusive evidence is lacking.