



Our Insect Enemies



Fight The Bite Of Bedbugs

(NAPSA)—The phrase “Sleep tight; don’t let the bedbugs bite,” may be truer than you think. Studies show that bedbugs are biting.

According to a recent survey of more than 150 pest control companies in the United States, conducted by Pest Control Technology magazine, more than 70 percent that offer bedbug control services have seen an increase in bedbug calls over the last 18 months.

Specifically, Orkin, Inc. has treated for bedbug infestations in 35 states and is predicting a 25 to 30 percent rise in bedbug infestations over the next four to five years.

The resurgence of these hitchhikers began in hotels, followed by infestations in homes, apartments, dormitories, condominiums and cruise ships. Once indoors, bedbugs spread from room to room—on clothing and luggage and even through pipes and vacuum cleaners. What’s more, cleanliness has nothing to do with bedbugs.

“Bedbugs are on the rise and are a serious issue for everyone,” said Frank Meek, board-certified entomologist and technical director for Orkin, Inc. “Orkin has treated multiple infestations in the past year from small hotels and apartment complexes to luxurious tourist destinations and homes.”

Bedbugs are flat, brown and oval in shape until after they bite; then they fill out and turn a reddish color. The adult is about $\frac{3}{16}$ of an inch long, or about the size of an apple seed. Though these nocturnal insects are not known to cause disease, they harbor hepati-



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tis and leave itchy, bloody welts on our skin.

Meek suggests checking for common signs of bedbug infestations when traveling, or if you suspect that you have a problem.

- Carefully inspect luggage and clothing for hiding insects.
- Check sheets for brown or red spots.
- Monitor for a musty, sweet odor, like soda pop syrup (produced from a large infestation).
- Look for itchy, bloody welts on the skin.

Bedbugs are extremely difficult to kill. In fact, adult bedbugs can live for a year without eating, and can withstand a wide range of temperatures, from nearly freezing to almost 113° F. Successfully treating for bedbugs requires the use of a licensed pest control professional with specific training and experience.

For more information regarding bedbugs or other pests, or to receive a free home inspection, call 1-800-800-ORKIN or visit www.Orkin.com.