

BED BUGS

INFORMATION SHEET



•**GENERAL INFORMATION**- Bed bugs were controlled in the 1950's and now are making a resurgence in many states. These hitchhikers are carried place to place on luggage, backpacks, used furniture and mattresses. Treatment is costly and very time consuming and it is recommended that a pesticide professional be used.

Bed bugs travel by night and hide when they are not feeding. They do not fly or jump but they crawl very quickly. They travel up to 20 feet to feed and each feeding lasts 3-10 minutes. They do **NOT** transfer disease but saliva is injected into the skin which can cause secondary infections. The worst thing that bedbugs bring are distress, embarrassment, fear, and loss of sleep .

•**IDENTIFICATION**- Adult bed bugs look like brown flat apple seeds. The nymphs are a little smaller and white in color. They start as eggs and after hatching they go through 5 molts until they reach the adult stage. Each molt requires a blood meal in order to grow into the next stage. Bed bugs prefer the smallest of places to hide, such as in screw holes, in electrical outlets, mattress seams, behind headboards, drapery pleats and underneath nightstands.



•**TREATMENT**- There are several different approaches for control.

CHEMICAL - There are many different types of insecticides available for use. Some are available for the general public and can be purchased at local stores. Other types of pesticides fall into the restricted use category that requires a permit to purchase. It is strongly recommended that a professional pest control operator be used to treat problem areas. There are insecticides for bed bugs that will kill on contact and there is also residual insecticides that will continue to be kill days later. Dust/powder treatments are useful in wall voids such as behind electrical outlets or attic areas. Aerosol 'bombs' are not recommended as they do not reach bed bug hiding places in a high enough concentration to be effective. Refer to EPA's list of approved insecticides for bed bugs <http://cfpub.epa.gov/oppref/bedbug/>

NONCHEMICAL/TEMPERATURE - Cold flash freezing using CO₂ can be sprayed using a device that will kill all stages on contact. High heat can be used several different ways. Clothes need to be washed in hot water and the dryer needs to be set on high and timed for at least 30 minutes. Dry steamers that are set to a temperature greater than 220° F can be used to spot treat known bed bug areas.



Local Pest Control Companies that treat for bed bugs

CONCORD

- Acme 704-786-4166
- Intersect 704-8180
- Orkin 704-782-2157
- Terminex 704-786-5300
- Union 704-782-6559

Kannapolis

- Asbolute Pest Management 704-933-7378
- Crane Exterminators 704-933-9545

Mt.Pleasant

- Clint Miller 704-436-6607

Midland

- City Wide Exterminators 704-888-0911
- Economy Exterminators 704-888-0882

Other possibilities other than bed bugs: spider beetles, carpet beetles, springtails, mites, fleas, ticks
lice, mosquitoes, roach nymph, pseudoscorpion, allergies, lint irritation, drug reactions

MEMORANDUM

To: Licensees, Certified Applicators, Property Managers, Property Owners, Assisted Living Managers, Pesticide Applicators, Code Enforcement Officers, Health Department Officials, etc.

From: Jim Burnette, Director Structural Pest Control and Pesticides Division, NCDA&CS

Subject: Treatment for Bedbug Control

With the increase in bedbug awareness in North Carolina, the Structural Pest Control Section has received numerous calls from different groups of people about whether or not a license is required to apply pesticides to control bedbugs in the property they own or manage. The Structural Pest Control Law addresses when it is legal to conduct pest control on property you own or property you manage.

The Structural Pest Control Law (Article 4C of Chapter 106 of the General of North Carolina) states:

106-65.25. Phases of structural pest control; prohibited acts; license required; exceptions.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to:

(1) Advertise as, offer to engage in, or engage in or supervise work as a manager, owner, or owner operator in any phase of structural pest control or otherwise act in the capacity of a structural pest control licensee unless the person is licensed pursuant to this Article or has engaged the services of a licensee as a full-time regular employee who is responsible for the structural pest control performed by the company. A license is required for each phase of structural pest control.

(3) Use a restricted use pesticide in any phase of structural pest control, whether it be on the person's own property or on the property of another, unless the person:

- a. Qualifies as a certified applicator for that phase of structural pest control; or
- b. Is under the direct supervision of a certified applicator who possesses a valid certified applicator's identification card for that phase of structural pest control

(d) A license is not required for any person (or the person's full, time regular employees) doing structural pest control on the person's own property. No fee may be charged for structural pest control performed by any such person.

Before treating for any structural pest (ants, roaches, fleas, bedbugs, etc.), ask the following questions:

• **1. Am I the property owner or am I (the applicator) employed by the property owner?** If the answer is yes, you can legally apply the pesticide product on the property owned by you or any property owned by your employer. *See question #2 with respect to applications of restricted use pesticides (RUP's)*

2. May I use a Restricted Use Pesticide (RUP)? If you are the property owner or the applicator employed by the property, you must obtain a Structural Pest Control Certification before purchasing and applying a RUP.

3. What if I or my employees manage the property for another? You can not legally apply any pesticides or use other methods for the control of structural pests without first obtaining a Structural Pest Control License. Any pest control work in this situation must be done by a licensed pest control company.

Having an Ornamental & Turf, Public Health or any other license issued by the Pesticide Section under the North Carolina Pesticide Law **does not allow you to conduct bedbug control.** Bedbugs are structural pests and their control is regulated under the Structural Pest Control Law. Bedbugs are a resilient and hard to control insect because they are small and they hide well. If you are not well studied in bedbugs and bedbug control, it is recommended under most circumstance to contract with a professional pest control company to remedy your bed bug problems. If you decide to treat the infestation yourself and you are legal to do so, **READ and UNDERSTAND the label.**

- **Carefully read the label before applying any pesticide. Apply the product only if you fully understand the instructions, and if you have the appropriate training/certification and equipment.**
- **Do NOT apply any insecticide or pesticide to mattresses or to surfaces that would be in direct contact with a person, unless the label instructions specifically state that the product can be applied in that manner. Some products can be harmful to people and pets.**
- **Do NOT use pesticides labeled for outdoor use only---indoors.**
- **Do NOT apply pesticides in/on sites not specified on the label (off-target)**

As the applicator, you must realize that it is a violation of both federal and state law to use a pesticide inconsistent with its labeling. As the applicator, you are responsible for the methods and materials used when applying any pesticide. A licensed Pest Management Professional may perform these tasks more effectively, safely and legally.

If you have any questions concerning this or other structural pest control regulatory issues, please contact the Structural Pest Control & Pesticides Division.