

BED BUG SPECIES

Identification Guide



Common Bed Bug *Cimex lectularius*

- Size:** 1/5 to 3/8-inch long (5 to 9.5 millimeters)
- Color:** Brown; after a blood meal, changes to purplish-red
- Shape:** Broadly flattened, oval insect with greatly reduced wings (appearing wingless) and long, slender legs and antennae. After a bloodmeal, they become more cigar-shaped.
- Behavior:** Prefers feeding on humans, but will also feed on other warm-blooded animals, like dogs, cats, birds and rodents. They have also been found in poultry facilities in the United States dating as far back as the early 1900's.
- Distribution:** Worldwide



Tropical Bed Bug *Cimex hemipterus*

- Size:** 1/5 to 5/16-inch long (5 to 8 millimeters)
- Color:** Reddish-brown; after a blood meal, changes to more reddish
- Shape:** Flattened dorsoventrally and lacks wings
- Behavior:** Affect both humans and poultry, feeding at night. They are averse to light so hide in very small crevices during daylight. They can climb smooth surfaces and are not commonly caught in pitfall traps. They also have a high heat tolerance that could affect standard heat control protocols.
- Distribution:** Tropics and sub-tropics (Africa, Asia, Australia and South America)



Bat Bug (Western Bat Bug) *Cimex pilosellus*

- Size:** 1/6 to 1/5-inch long (4 to 5 millimeters)
- Color:** Red or mahogany; after a blood meal, changes to deeper or darker red or mahogany
- Shape:** Oval, wingless and has six legs
- Behavior:** Develop in colonies of roosting bats, which sometimes occur in attics or behind walls of buildings. They may move into human living areas and incidentally bite people. Such migrations are particularly common when bats migrate or are eliminated from a building.
- Distribution:** North America, but most common to the northern United States and Canada

