

# Bedbugs

Knowsley Council Pest Control Service

## Bedbugs

Bedbugs are not considered a public health pest, however, they can be a nuisance due to their feeding habits. Bedbugs draw blood by piercing the skin. The bedbug's saliva causes redness, swelling and itching and bites may cause an allergic reaction.



## Signs to look for around your home

Adult bedbugs are oval shaped, flat and about 6mm long. They are pale brown when unfed and reddish brown / purple after feeding. Bedbugs may be found in mattress seams and corners, headboards, under loose wallpaper, sockets, cracks and crevices around the bedroom.

Bedbugs are nocturnal creatures and will feed when people are asleep. The marks they leave will be red, slightly swollen, itchy and may appear in clusters along the neck, shoulders, back, legs or arms.

Bedbugs deposit their faeces after every meal. This will appear as dark brown stains on bedding especially around the edges and seams of mattresses and bed frames.

## How to prevent bedbugs

Infestations of bedbugs are on the rise as they can be carried in suitcases from holidays and trips. Some precautions can be taken including:

- After travelling, store suitcases and bags off the ground and away from the bed
- If buying second hand furniture inspect seams, cracks and crevices
- After vacuuming mattresses and fabrics dispose of the contents in an outside bin

## Treating and controlling bedbugs

Regular washing of all bedding and clothing, followed by drying in a tumble dryer can help, however, the eradication of bedbugs can be a long process, especially where high levels of infestation exist. Treatment can take from two weeks to two months and sometimes longer for more severe cases.

We recommend you involve pest control professionals wherever possible.

## Further help and guidance

Knowsley Council Pest Control Service offers competitive rates for the treatment of bedbugs in domestic and commercial properties.

For further information ring **0151 443 2400** or visit **[www.knowsley.gov.uk/residents/bins-waste-and-environment/book-pest-control-appointment](http://www.knowsley.gov.uk/residents/bins-waste-and-environment/book-pest-control-appointment)**

