



Small like an apple seed



Brown in colour



Flat body

CHARACTERISTICS OF A BED BUG

AS A CHILDCARE OPERATOR, WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?

Bed bugs have re-emerged as a concern in residential premises and as a result the insects can find their way into childcare facilities. **While it is unlikely that bed bugs will infest the childcare environment**, they can become a problem in nap areas of childcare facilities. Bed bugs can also move from one person's belongings to another's and possibly be carried to another home.

HOW DO BED BUGS BEHAVE?

- Do not live on a person, but have the ability to "hitchhike" from one place to another
- Most active at night where they feed on blood as people sleep

BED BUG BITES

- Bites have not been shown to transmit disease
- Bites can often present themselves in rows or clusters
- Bites can develop into red, itchy welts, like mosquito bites
- Not everyone reacts to bites



BED BUGS IN CHILDCARE FACILITIES

CHILDCARE FACILITY INFESTATIONS ARE UNCOMMON

- ✂ It is unlikely that bed bugs will infest school age childcare environments. It is possible that facilities with nap areas can experience bedbug problems.
- ✂ Usually, only a few bed bugs will hitchhike to childcare facilities from an infested home on backpacks, clothing, books or other personal items
- ✂ It is possible for a bed bug to transfer from one persons' belongings to another and then be carried to another home

WHAT IF I FIND A BED BUG OR BITES ON A CHILD?

It is important to be sensitive to a child and family who are dealing with an infestation at home. Although bed bugs have nothing to do with cleanliness or socioeconomic status, there is still a stigma that can come with having bed bugs. As a result, parents may be hesitant to admit to having bed bugs and children may not want others to know they have an infestation at home.



Photo Credit: Piotr Naskrecki

**NO CHILD SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM CHILDCARE FACILITIES DUE TO BED BUGS
CHILDCARE FACILITIES CANNOT BE CLOSED DUE TO THE PRESENCE OF BED BUGS**

WHAT IF I FIND A BED BUG IN A CHILDCARE FACILITY?

- ✂ If found, place the item the bed bug(s) was sighted on into sealed double bags until it can be treated or disposed
- ✂ Licensee to contact a pest control company if there is evidence of a possible infestation at the facility
- ✂ Childcare staff are prohibited from applying pesticides on daycare property
- ✂ Pest control must be done after daycare hours. Open windows and doors to air out prior to reopening daycare

HOW DO I PREVENT BED BUGS FROM COMING INTO THE CHILDCARE FACILITY?

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) strongly advises facilities not to accept donated items such as furniture and/or clothing from the community.

HOW TO PREVENT BED BUGS FROM SPREADING

The licensee should contact the student's parents or guardian to inform them of a possible bed bug or bed bug bite(s) on their child

If there are live bed bugs on a child's clothing or belongings there is likelihood that the bugs can be transferred to other items in the facility. If the child has a change of clothing, it is recommended that the child place their clothing or belongings into sealed double bags. Inform parent or guardian to bring a change of clothes for their child

On arrival the child should be discreetly brought to the washroom to change into fresh clothes. The childcare facility can take these clothes and place them into a hot dryer for 30 minutes and then place in clean zip-lock bags for the next day. The heat will destroy any bed bugs and their eggs that may be on the clothing.

The licensee of the childcare facility may consider notifying the other parent(s)/guardian(s) of the children in the facility. The licensee may contact the Senior Environmental Health Officer specializing in pest control for advice

THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES SHOULD BE SENT HOME WITH THE CHILD TO PARENTS (ENCLOSED):

Facts about Bed Bugs - Sneezes and Diseases:

<http://vch-connect/programs/cdc/SneezesandDiseases/Documents/S%20and%20D%20Aug%2022%20final.pdf>

How to Handle Bed Bugs in your Home (VCH)

Additional resource materials are available at:

<http://www.vch.ca/your-environment/pest-management/bed-bugs/>

ADVICE FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF CHILDREN LIVING IN AN INFESTED HOME

If a bed bug or possible bite(s) is found on a child, it may indicate that the child has come from an infested home or that the bed bug has crawled onto the child at the childcare facility or from another community environment.

THE INFORMATION OUTLINED BELOW IS INTENDED FOR REFERENCE ONLY:

Childcare facilities may work with the parents/guardians of any child living in an infested home to develop strategies to prevent the further spread of bed bugs.

-  Determine if the infested home is being treated. Performing home remedies is usually insufficient and could cause negative health effects or produce potential hazards in the home. Ensure a certified person is contacted to treat the infestation. If the family is renting their home and not receiving any professional pest control via their landlord, they should contact and report to *(insert details specific to your region)*
-  Store their child's clothing that was cleaned and dried on hot dryer settings in sealed plastic bags until the next use
-  Backpacks, lunchboxes and other items that are brought to and from childcare facilities should be inspected daily and stored in sealed plastic containers or sealed plastic bags at home to prevent bed bugs from migrating into these items
-  At the facility, the student may bring with them sealable plastic bags or plastic containers to store their personal belongings to prevent bed bugs from spreading to other student's belongings

A VCH Environmental Health Officer can provide further information and education to help in the process of reducing and eliminating bed bugs

Please call *(insert # specific to your region)* to speak to a VCH Pest Control Specialist

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BEDBUG RESPONSE FLOWCHART

