



CCAABB

CONNECTICUT COALITION AGAINST BED BUGS



Bed Bugs and Lookalikes

Bed bug identification for the recycling and refurbishing industries

Mike Thomas CAES 2011



Adult bed bug

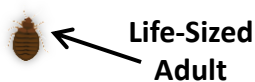
Mike Thomas, CAES



Adult

Nymph

Adult **Bed Bugs** are dorsally flat insects; broadly oval, and the size of an apple or melon seed (1/4"). Nymphs look like adults in shape but are smaller. Bed bugs are tan to brown in color, but may appear more red if they have recently fed. Eggs are white and barrel shaped. Bed bugs do not jump, fly or hop, they walk. They do not live on humans, but commute to their host from a hiding place to blood feed. Signs of bed bug activity may be more obvious than the insects themselves: look for clusters of dark spots or smudges on mattresses (fecal spots), especially along seams. Eggs, shed skins, and all life stages of bed bugs may also be present in these 'soiled' areas.

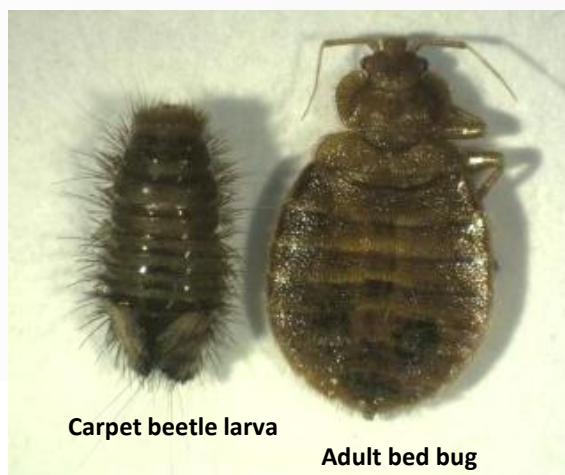


Life-Sized Adult



Carpet beetle larva

Katherine Dugas, CAES



Carpet beetle larva

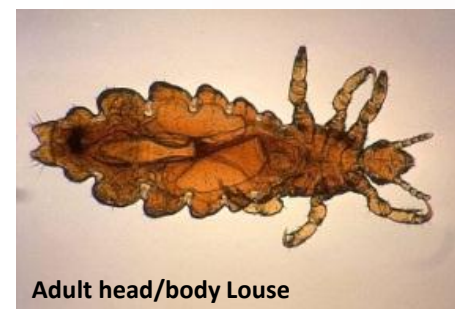
Adult bed bug

Carpet Beetle larvae have hairy, segmented bodies that may resemble a bed bug's abdomen, but they lack a distinctive head. The comparison photo (left), shows a carpet beetle larva next to an adult bed bug. Carpet beetle larvae develop into winged adult beetles. Hairs of the varied carpet beetle can irritate skin.



Adult flea

Adult **Fleas** are laterally flat insects that have powerful hind legs and can jump. Flea larvae resemble small clear worms and are more likely to be found in pet bedding than in mattresses.



Adult head/body Louse

Lice are long and tear-shaped insects that live on people or in their clothing. They can not live long away from a human host. However, lice can occasionally be found on mattresses of heavily-infested individuals.



Mattress with bed bugs and fecal spots



Maple seed



Wood sorrel seed



Lint

Seeds or Lint can look remarkably similar to insects with the naked eye. Closer examination using a hand lens or microscope helps with this kind of identification.

Useful equipment for mattress-furniture inspection

- bright flashlight
- hand lens
- latex gloves
- soft forceps (tweezers)
- glass bottle to hold insects for identification
- spray bottle with soapy water to disable and/or kill insects
- **Identification:** Dr. Gale E. Ridge (203) 974-8600
Email photos gale.ridge@ct.gov



Bed frame with bed bug fecal spots