

# BED BUG INFORMATION PACKET

## SUWANNEE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD



702 2nd Street

Live Oak, Florida 32064

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# Bed Bug Information

The resurgence of bed bugs has created concern in the pest management industry and in society overall. Controlling, let alone eradicating, this pest can be difficult.

The purpose of this packet is not to make you paranoid about bed bugs, but to heighten your awareness about encountering bed bugs during your daily activities. Because there is currently no simple and inexpensive way to eliminate bed bug infestations, we are seeing their populations becoming more and more widespread.

It is for this reason that we need to be proactive and develop a bed bug consciousness so that we can modify our behavior to avoid bringing bed bugs into our homes and schools.

In order to avoid problems resulting from improper applications, it is critical that we are knowledgeable on how to handle bed bug introductions. Early detection is critically important to putting a bed bug problem behind you quickly and efficiently.

# What Do I Need to Know About Bed Bugs?

~Adult bed bugs are about 3/16-inch long and reddish-brown, with oval, flattened bodies. They are sometimes mistaken for ticks or cockroaches. The immatures (nymphs) resemble the adults, but are smaller and lighter in color.



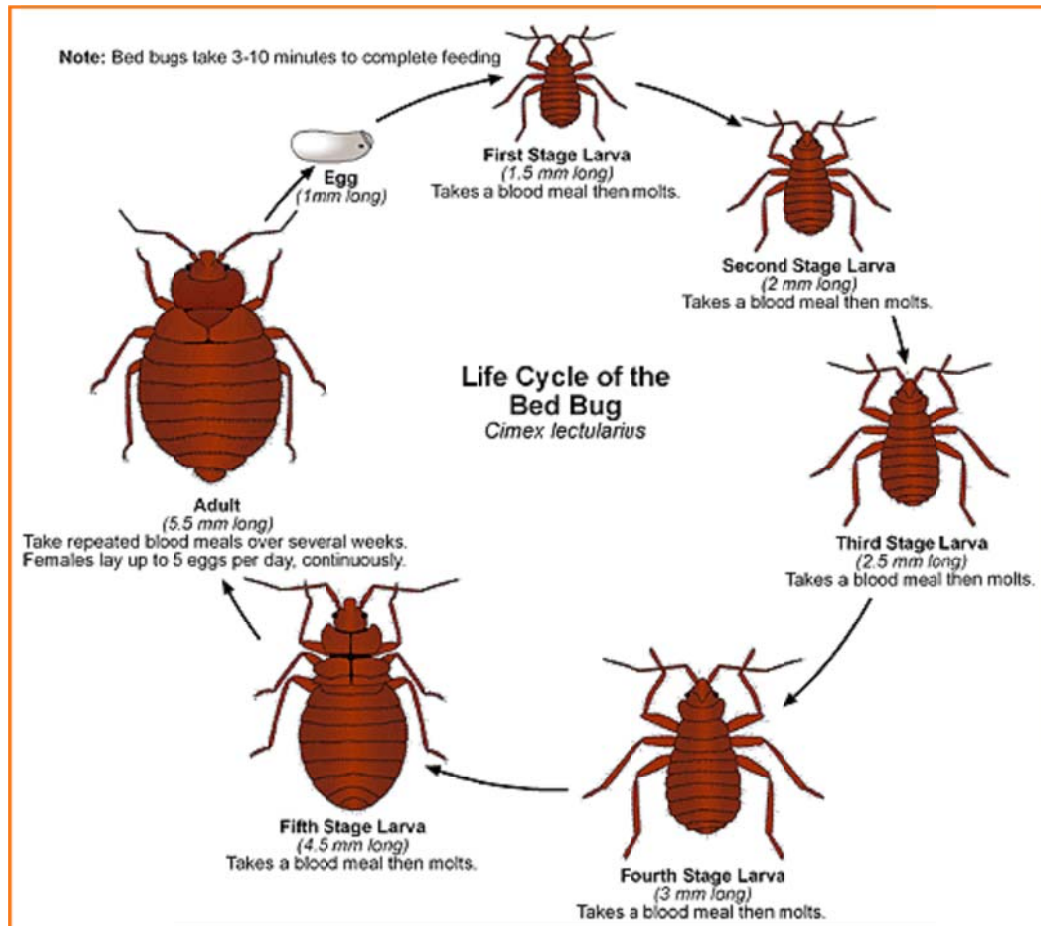
~Bed bugs do not fly, but can move rapidly over floors, walls, ceilings and other surfaces.

~Unlike head lice, they do not live on a person. However, they can hitchhike from one place to another in backpacks, clothing, luggage, books, and other items.

~Bed bugs are active mainly at night. During the daytime, they prefer to hide close to where people sleep.

~A common concern with bed bugs is whether they transmit diseases. Although bed bugs can harbor pathogens in and on their bodies, transmission to humans is considered unlikely.

~Know the difference between an **INTRODUCTION** and an **INFESTATION**. An **infestation** can be defined as having virtually all of the life-cycle present (eggs, nymphs and adults). Finding bed bugs on students will most likely be classified as an **introduction** into the classroom as opposed to finding bed bugs in the environment (usually classroom), even if the student's jacket or backpack may contain more than one stage of the bed bug life cycle.



# What If I Find A Bug On A Student?

If a bed bug is found on a student, it may indicate that the student has bed bugs at home. However, bed bugs can crawl onto or off of a person (or their belongings) at any time, so it is also possible that the bed bug was brought to school by someone else. If a suspected bed bug is found on a student or a student's belongings, the following procedures should be followed:

1. The student should be discreetly removed from the classroom so that the school nurse or a qualified individual can examine the student's clothing and other belongings. Any bugs found should be removed and collected for identification. Try to keep the specimens as intact as possible.
2. Contact Live Oak Pest Control at 362-3887 for positive identification. Until confirmed, please move forward as if possible confirmation. Proceed to contact the parent/guardian of possible introduction and provide information sheet. Conduct visual inspection of child and allow student to return to class.
3. If a confirmed bed bug was found on a student, then the school principal or nurse should contact the student's parents or guardian to inform them of the bed bug presence on their child. Consider sending a bed bug inspection form home, a sample is provided at the end of this document.
4. The school principal or nurse or should consider notifying the impacted class or classes.
5. Students should not be excluded from school due to bed bugs unless repeated efforts have been made to remedy an introduction. Schools should not be closed due to bed bug presence. If pest management is necessary it will normally be targeted to certain areas of the school.
6. Ongoing pest management that includes the use of pesticides indoors should be overseen by the school principal or designee and must conform to the school's integrated pest management plan.

# What Can I Do to Eliminate Bed Bugs From My Classroom?

1. Backpacks, lunchboxes, and other items that travel back and forth to school can also be inspected daily and sealed in plastic containers to prevent bed bugs from getting into them at home.
2. Hard surfaces can be cleaned with standard cleaning products.
3. If bed bugs have been found repeatedly in a particular classroom, have the room inspected by a pest management professional or other trained staff.

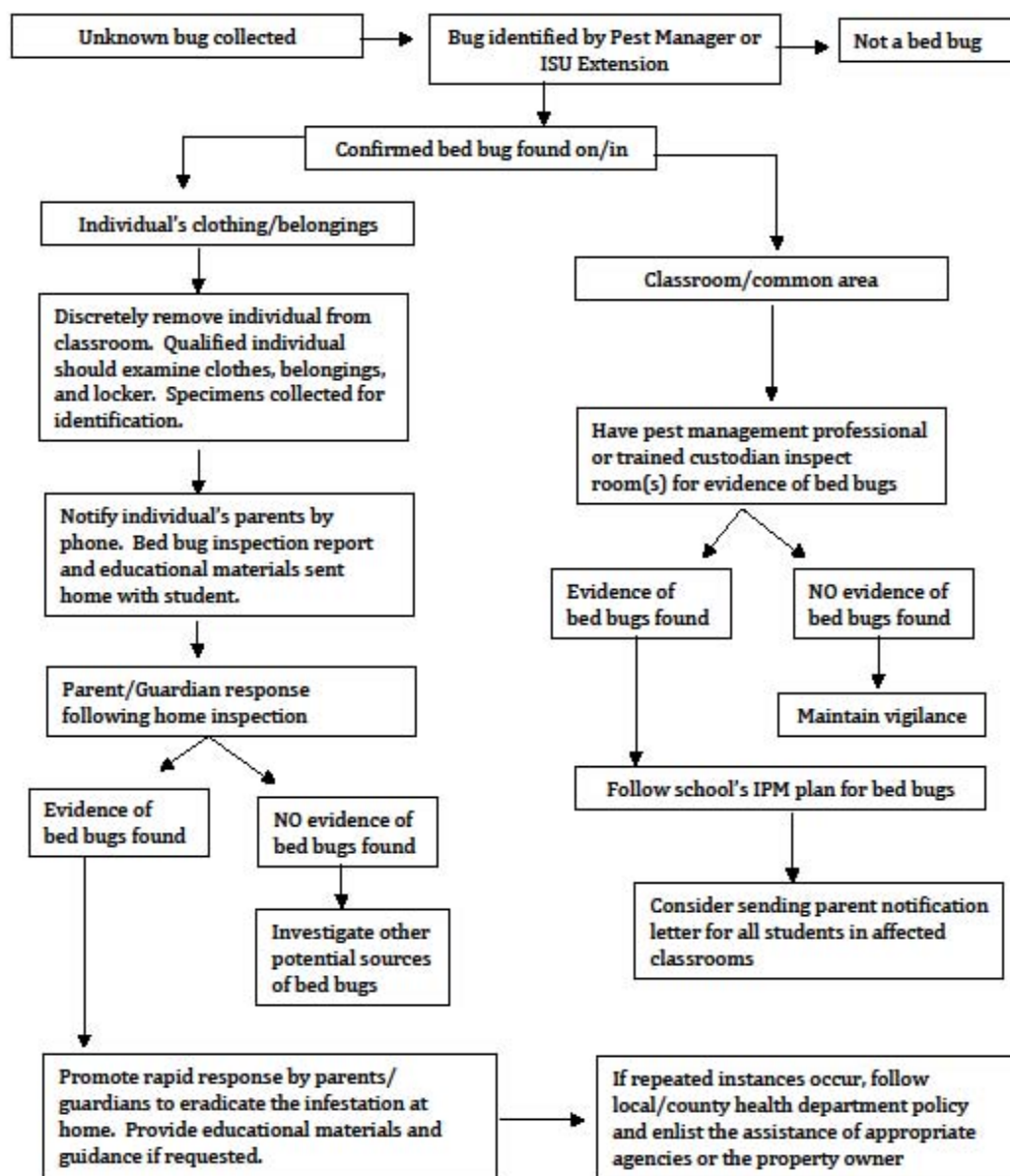
## What If One of My Students Has an Infestation at Home?

When a student is dealing with an infestation at home, it is important to be sensitive to their problem. 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 students may not want others to know they have an infestation at home. Students living in an infested home may also feel anxious or tired during the school day.

Schools should work with the parents of any student living in an infested home to develop strategies for preventing the further spread of bed bugs.

1. Determine if the infested home is being treated. Home remedies and do-it-yourself treatments are usually insufficient and could cause negative health effects or produce potential hazards in the home.
2. If a parent needs additional resources regarding bed bugs, they can reference the online resources at: <http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/> or <http://schoolipm.ifas.ufl.edu/>.
3. In an infested home, parents should store their child's freshly laundered clothing in sealed plastic bags until they are put on in the morning. This prevents bed bugs from hiding in the clothing and being carried to school.

### *School Response Flowchart*





# Bed Bug Identification

## KEY POINTS:

- Eggs are pearly white and only 1mm in length
- First stage immature bed bugs are only 1mm in length
- First stage immatures are pale in color and are somewhat translucent
- Immature bugs go through five developmental stages becoming larger with each stage
- Adult bed bugs are approximately 1/4" in length and are reddish-brown in color

## Bed Bug Eggs



Courtesy of the National Pest Management Association; PestWorld.org





Stages of Bed Bug

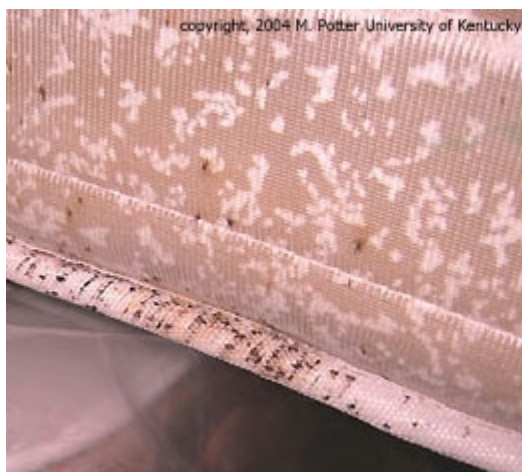


Size of Bed Bug



## Bed Bug Casts

## Staining on Mattress and Box Springs Caused by Bed Bugs





## Bed Bugs on Chair



## Bed Bugs on Mattress



Bed Bug on Hand



Infestation of Bed Bugs