BED BUG ANATOMY

A detailed description of the parts of an adult bed bug's body.

FMC

PROBOSCIS

This small tube is tucked under the mouth and elongates when the bed bug is ready to feed. It injects anti-coagulating saliva and withdraws the blood. According to the University of Kentucky, a bed bug draws about 0.0055 milliliters of blood per bite.

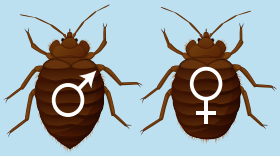
ANTENNAE

The antennae have four segments each and are about half as long as the body. They act as sensors to guide bed bugs to their host.

ABDOMEN

The abdomen has 11 segments that easily expand allowing the bed bug to fill with blood and plump up as it is feeding.

The male has a pointed tip abdomen and the female has a rounded tip.

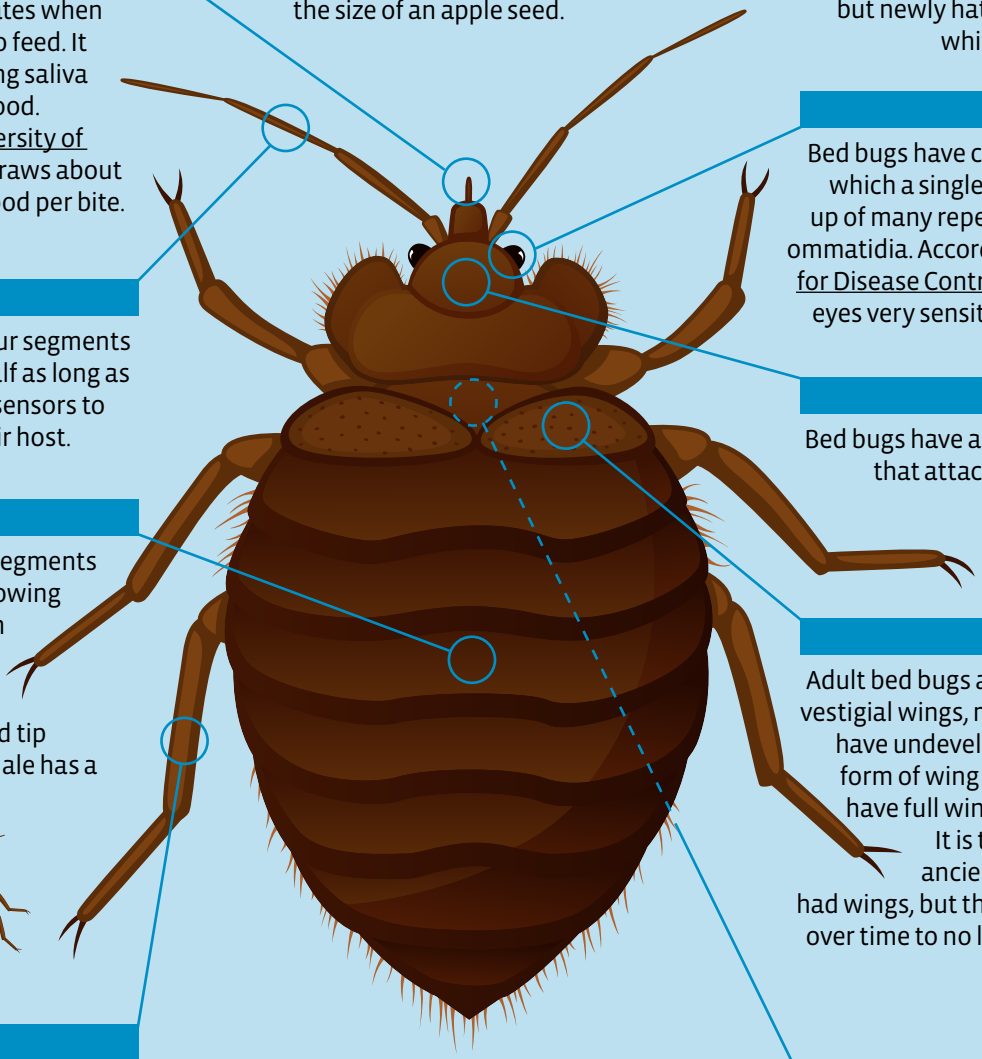


LEGS

Bed bugs have six legs that are adapted for crawling. Bed bugs can crawl four (4) feet per minute. Their claws are used for gripping rough surfaces as well as the host when the bed bug is feeding. The bed bug's legs lack suction pads preventing them from climbing smooth surfaces.

SIZE OF AN ADULT BED BUG

About 4–5 millimeters, similar to the size of an apple seed.



SETAE

These are tiny sensory structures covering the abdomen that can be mistaken for hair.

COLOR

Mahogany or rusty brown, but newly hatched nymphs are white until they molt.

EYES

Bed bugs have compound eyes, in which a single large eye is made up of many repeating units called ommatidia. According to the Center for Disease Control, this makes the eyes very sensitive to movement.

HEAD

Bed bugs have a short broad head that attaches to the thorax.

WING PADS

Adult bed bugs are equipped with vestigial wings, meaning that they have undeveloped wings in the form of wing pads. They do not have full wings and cannot fly. It is thought that their ancient ancestors once had wings, but the species evolved over time to no longer need them.

THORAX

This is the body segment where the legs are attached, enabling the bed bug to move.

For more bed bug detection, monitoring and control information, visit www.verifibedbug.com.

YouTube BLOG