Common Household Pests (p. 2 of 2)

Get The Facts About Bed Bugs, They Are An Annoyance But Pose No Immediate Threat To People Or Animals.

What is a bed bug?

- Bed bugs are oval shaped insects that are about the same size as the head of a pin. They have brown flat bodies and no wings. Their bodies bloat and change to a reddish colour after they feed on blood.
- There is no evidence that bed bugs transmit diseases. Most people hardly notice bed bug bites, as bites may appear as a minor rash. Severe scratching of bitten areas may lead to infection. This is easily treated by your physician.

Where are they found?

- Bed bugs are a growing problem in many communities. They have been found all over the province and throughout Canada and the United States.
- Bed bugs can be found in hotels, apartments, private homes, and public places. Many people encounter bed bugs while travelling and unknowingly bring them home in clothing or luggage.
- Bed bugs are expert stow-a-ways and are good at hiding once in your home. If buying second-hand furniture, inspect it before bringing it into the home.

How will I know that bed bugs are in my home?

- Inspect yourself for bites, which may appear as small red marks in a line or in groups of three or more. Sometimes bites result in swollen sores.
- Inspect the furniture in each room, especially beds. Look for eggs, which are whitish clusters of **10** to **15** the size of pinheads, discarded shells or carcasses, blood spots, and live insects.

Something to think about…

Take appropriate action if pests come into your home to protect you, your family, and your home and that of others.

Contact your local housing authority for more information

What do I do if I suspect my home has bed bugs?

- If you find any evidence of bed bugs, remain calm and contact your local housing authority immediately.
- Do not apply insecticide or try other remedies, since it doesn't get rid of them and makes them harder to find. Leave the job to the professionals, who have experience and advanced methods of detection and extermination.
- Prevent bed bugs from spreading in your home by eliminating clutter, making your bed an island, and washing and drying clothes and linens on a hot setting.
- Have patience and cooperate with the housing authority and the professionals hired to deal with the problem.