

Bed Bugs

Professional Knowledge, Smarter Control & Long-Term Confidence

THINK YOU KNOW BED BUGS? TAKE THE QUIZ



Bed bugs remain one of the most operationally challenging pests faced by pest management professionals. Their cryptic behaviour, resistance risks, and ability to survive long periods without feeding make elimination difficult and customer confidence fragile.

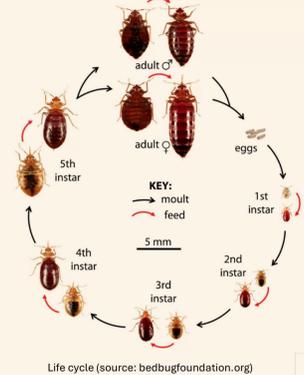
For PMPs, success depends not only on treatment, but on accurate detection, confirmation of control, and long-term monitoring that reduces callbacks, labour, and reputational risk.

BED BUG BIOLOGY, BEHAVIOUR & RISK FACTORS

Life cycle and survival

Bed bugs hatch from eggs in 1–2 weeks and pass through five nymphal stages before adulthood. Progression depends on blood meals, typically taken every 7–10 days. Under favourable conditions, the life cycle may complete in 45 days, under limited feeding, it can extend to a year.

Adult bed bugs can survive up to 12 months without feeding, making post-treatment monitoring essential. Female bed bugs lay 200–500 eggs, often in batches following feeding, enabling rapid population growth if early detection is missed.



Behaviour & Harbourage Selection

Bed bugs are nocturnal and strongly thigmotactic, preferring tight cracks and crevices, dark harbourages close to hosts, and vertical edges and structural seams.

Once a suitable harbourage is found, aggregation pheromones are released, drawing others to the site and forming colonies. As density increases, new harbourages are established, often spreading across rooms or adjacent units.

- Tight cracks and crevices
- Dark harbourages close to hosts
- Vertical edges and structural seams

DETECTION

The Foundation of Successful Control

Unlike one-off inspections, monitoring reflects how bed bugs behave, actively seeking aggregation sites, rather than relying on chance discovery.

Visual inspections remain essential, but early-stage infestations are frequently missed. Signs such as faecal spotting, shed skins, and live insects may not be present at low population levels.

Aggregation pheromone-based monitoring provides a critical advantage:

Attracts all mobile life stages, males and females	Detects low-level infestations	Confirms treatment success	Enables continuous, passive surveillance

DETECTION

Treatment Approaches

No single method is sufficient alone. Success depends on integration, timing, client compliance, and confirmation.

Professional bed bug management typically involves a combination of:

- Residual Insecticides
- Insect growth regulators (IGRs)
- Heat treatments
- Mechanical methods (steam, vacuuming)
- Physical dusts (silica-based products)



Understanding Customer Impact & Professional Opportunity

HOSPITALITY & SHORT-TERM LETTINGS	HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS & SOCIAL HOUSING	PRIVATE HOMES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £25K–£30K cost per incident from closures and guest relocation Reputational damage amplified by online reviews High demand for discreet, non-toxic monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-unit spread risk Vulnerable residents Importance of reassurance and transparency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emotional distress, stigma, anxiety Financial burden from discarded belongings High reliance on professional reassurance

Monitoring enables PMPs to:

- Educate clients confidently
- Offer premium service tiers
- Reduce inspection labour
- Replace time-intensive manual or canine inspections

DETECTION

Sustainability, Safety & the Future of Monitoring

Pheromone-based monitoring meets these demands while improving operational efficiency and detection accuracy.

Modern pest management demands:

Non-toxic, chemical-free monitoring	Reusable systems that reduce waste	Safe deployment in sensitive environments	Alignment with Integrated Pest Management (IPM)