

## Bedbugs Advice Leaflet

The common Bedbug (*Cimex lectularius*) feeds on the blood of humans, and normally emerges at night from cracks in furniture joints, bed frames, wallpaper and skirting boards. The principal host of the bedbug is man, though other warm bodied animals such as domestic pets can be parasitised. Bedbugs leave a characteristic almond or mint like smell in rooms where they are active. Bites can be painful, which give rise to a hard whitish swelling. This advice sheet aims to provide you with information on the following:

1. General information about bedbugs
2. What can be done to identify and treat for bedbugs

### 1. General information about bedbugs

Unlike most other bugs, bedbugs cannot fly and must either crawl or be passively transported in clothing or more probably in luggage, furniture, books or other objects used as harbourage. When it has not recently fed, the body is paper thin, and almost red brown. After feeding, the body elongates and widens and the colour changes to a dull red. This apparent change is quite striking and may cause the observer to believe that two different species of insect are present.

Bedbug eggs are elongated and about 1mm long, white in colour, and have a distinct cap on one side. The eggs are laid individually or in clusters, and are cemented to wood, fabrics and other surfaces in places where bugs hide.