# Hey Buckeyes:

Don't let the Bed Bugs Bite! Bite Back

Bed bugs creep around and inside your mattress. Wonder how they got there? The source could possibly come from anywhere. From travel, friends, guests, used furniture, movie theaters, schools, clothing, your work.... the possibilities are ENDLESS.

# Amazingly, just ONE is needed to jump start a massive bed bug infestation!

## FAST FACTS

- They feed at night & hide during the day in your mattress and cracks/crevices of walls/furniture.
- Bed bugs like to travel, that's how they've become such a wide-spread issue today.
- They hide in suitcases, purses, backpacks, boxes and shoes.
- Female bed bugs can lay over 500 eggs in a lifetime, which is ten months to a year.

# GENERAL INFORMATION

They get their name because they are commonly found in beds but can also be found in other places where humans spend a lot of time: hotels, airplanes, and couches. Many experts believe they've made their worldwide comeback due to globalization (from both people/goods). Adults are straw colored to a rusty brown, oval bodies and wingless. Before feeding they're flat like paper (that's why they hide so well). After feeding, they change dramatically, becoming "bloated" and a darker red.

#### DIET

Bed bugs feed exclusively on blood. They feed for 5-10 min. at night and then crawl into shelter for several days digesting the meal. When Bed bugs feed, they inject the skin with their saliva and an anesthetic (this keeps the host from feeling the bite and moving). Bed bugs do not spread disease, but their bites can become red, itchy welts. Some people suffer from allergic reactions & develop painful swelling.

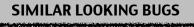
### PREVENTION

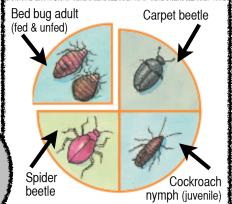
- \* Protect your mattresses & box springs with Bed Bug encasements.
- \* Wash and dry everything on the highest heat for 60 minutes.
- \* Don't take mattresses/furniture that has been left at the curb / street.
- \* Check your bed sheets for blood or dark spots.
- Keep your suitcases off the floor when you travel.
  Just be aware 24/7!

### LIFE CYCLE & SIZE



- \* Eggs hatch into
   "nymphs" which
   become adults in 5
   wks, They must feed
   before each molt.
   \* Adults can live over a
- year without a meal.





# **Great On-Line Resources:**

- ✓ www.centralohiobedbugs.org localized information.
   ✓ www.bedbugger.com various information.
- ✓ www.bedbugregistry.com find where they've been spotted throughout the US & Canada.





FACT: Bed Bugs DO NOT carry diseases, but heavy infestations have shown to cause anemia in children and the elderly. They also cause stress and sleeplessness in the majority of cases as well.

Actual Size