

Bed Bug CSI*continued from page 1*

percent mortality, after six months, there will more than 16,000 bed bugs. This assumes there is a constant food source and temperatures are warm. Bed bugs develop faster when temperatures are warm (83-90 degrees F) and humidities are high (75-80 percent).

2. It is very easy for people to move bed bugs. Bed bug eggs are light colored and very tiny—smaller than a pinhead. Eggs are sticky and glued to fabric (even clothing) and wood surfaces. They would be unnoticeable glued to pillows, which are not washed very often. Bed bugs are very flat and can hide unnoticed in furniture, luggage and boxes. It is impossible to give a complete list of all the places they can hide. Business travelers and vacationers can bring bed bugs home in their suitcases or clothing and not even know it for months. Inspecting hotel rooms for bed bugs is prudent, but it will be hard to find a small infestation.

3. Bed bugs can and will infest single family dwellings and apartment buildings belonging to all socioeconomic levels and ethnic groups. There have been news reports of bed bug infestations in expensive hotels so no one is immune from this problem.

4. Expectations that pest control professionals will immediately be able to eradicate a bed bug infestation is

Can People Treat for Bed Bugs Themselves?

Theoretically, people should be able to do their own treatment, but pest control professionals have access to different products than those available at hardware and discount stores. They also have equipment designed to deliver treatments in cracks and crevices where bed bugs live and have been trained in safe application techniques. I think a pest control service will probably solve the problem more quickly, which should be the goal of those living in the infested home. Your cooperation with a pest control company will help speed control efforts.

unreasonable. Depending on the infestation level, it could take a minimum of two to four months and may take longer. In multiple-unit housing (apartments, hotels, motels), all units may need treatment. The key to treatment is to clean and treat all locations where bed bugs hide during the day. We don't recommend insecticidal treatment of the mattress, but a portable steamer will kill bed bugs and their eggs.

5. Residents can help with control efforts. Bed bugs live in cracks and crev-

ices; so removing clutter, removes hiding places. Scrubbing and/or vacuuming hiding places is important. Don't forget to throw away the vacuum cleaner bag after each use. It may be difficult to treat extremely infested furniture, so throwing away an infested, over-stuffed sofa might be a good idea. Cover mattresses and foundations with mattress covers to completely seal bed bugs inside. Make sure there are no tears in the cover and use duct tape to cover the zipper. Leave this for at least one year.

Isolate the bed/sofa/recliner so bed bugs living away from the bed cannot get to the sleeper. Remove bed skirts and any bedding that touches the floor. Move the bed a foot or more away from the wall. Take measures to prevent bed bugs from climbing the legs of the bed. You may have to be creative here, but consider sticky traps, standing legs of beds in bowls of soapy water or mineral oil or coating the bed legs with petroleum jelly or double-sided carpet tape. Bed bugs can't climb the sides of polished glass so legs of beds can also be placed inside glass jars.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

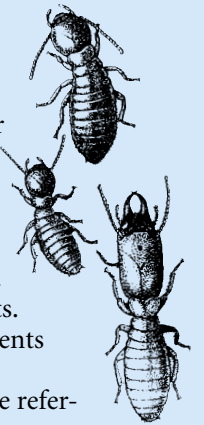
UNL Extension in Lancaster County educational resource 263 "Managing Bed Bugs" available at the extension office or online at <http://lancaster.unl.edu/pest/resources/BedBug263.shtml>

Everything Homeowners Need to Know About Termite Control Workshop, May 18

University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension will present a workshop, Everything Homeowners Need to Know About Termite Control, on Thursday, May 18, 6:30–9:30 p.m. at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln.

- Attendees will:
- Learn to identify termites and their damage.
 - Learn unbiased information about effective treatments, based on research results.
 - Learn why treatments cost so much.
 - Receive up-to-date reference materials.
 - Be informed consumers and make better decisions.

Cost is \$25 and includes reference materials. Call 441-7180 for more information.

**Controlling Ticks****Soni Cochran***UNL Extension Associate*

Controlling ticks is difficult and usually takes a combination of cultural, preventative and pest control. Children and adults should avoid tick-infested areas in the spring and if unavoidable, careful body examinations should be made after leaving the area to remove any ticks.

Reduce your exposure to ticks:

1. Cultural. Keep grassy and weedy areas trimmed to reduce harborage for tick hosts. The reservoir tick host that carries Lyme disease is the white-footed mouse (deer mouse).

2. Avoidance. Whenever possible, stay out of tick-infested areas, grassy pastures, prairies and wooded areas. Restrict movements

of your dog.

3. Proper Clothing. When entering tick-infested areas, wear long-sleeved shirts and long trousers with tight-fitting cuffs. Wear light-colored clothing. Ticks are easier to see on a light background.

4. Repellents. Use an insect repellent containing the active ingredient diethyl toluamide (DEET). Apply to clothing and areas of exposed skin such as hands, wrists, ankles and neck. Protect dogs with products recommended by your veterinarian. Be sure to read all product label directions.

5. Inspection and Removal. Inspection and removal of ticks reduces the risk of disease transmission. After crawling on a potential host, a tick may take up to a day to attach and feed, so you may be able to remove a tick before it has attached. In addition, the risk of

disease transmission is related to the length of feeding so attached ticks should be removed promptly.

Ticks tend to concentrate on the head, shoulders, neck and in ear canals. Remove embedded ticks with forceps, by gripping the tick carefully at the point of attachment and pulling upward in a slow but firm manner. Care should be taken when removing a tick from pets or humans to insure that the entire tick is completely removed from the skin (the head often breaks off). After removal, wash the wound with soap and water and apply alcohol or some other disinfectant to help prevent infection.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Go to UNL Extension in Lancaster County's Web site at <http://lancaster.unl.edu/pest/>

Building a Bat House**Soni Cochran***UNL Extension Associate*

Bats that live in Nebraska eat a wide variety of flying insects including mosquitoes, garden and crop pests like cucumber beetles, corn root-worm beetles, moths, stinkbugs, June bugs and leafhoppers. By attracting bats, you can reduce the numbers of insect pests in an area. One way to attract bats is by adding a bat house.

Bat house construction and installation can be an environmentally friendly and rewarding activity for both youth and adults. By

encouraging bats in an area, both humans and wildlife benefit.

Generally, bat houses should be placed in rural locations such as on farms, acreages or naturalized areas. You're

also more likely to have success with your bat house if you place it where bats are already present. Even if bats don't live in your area, you may still be able to attract them by installing a bat house.

For bat house design plans, house placement recommendations and bat



Little brown bats (*Myotis lucifugus*) (pictured above) and big brown bats (*Eptesicus fuscus*) live in colonies of 10 to 200 and are most likely candidates to occupy your bat house.

house maintenance, visit <http://lancaster.unl.edu/pest/wildlife.shtml> and select "Bat House Construction & Installation" (NebGuide G1575) from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The resource describes potential benefits and hazards of bat houses. This publication is also available at the extension office.

Don Pfitzer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Spring Cleaning? Take Advantage of Household Hazardous Waste Collections

These collections are for household only; not for businesses. Only residents of Lincoln and Lancaster County can bring items to collections.

Items You Can Bring for Disposal

Heavy metals: items containing mercury such as thermometers and thermostats.

Solvents: mineral spirits, turpentine, paint strippers and thinners, oil-based paints, varnishes, stains, polishes and waxes.

Pesticides: weed killers, garden sprays, wood preservatives, roach powder, rat poisons. You may also bring EPA-banned products, like DDT, chlordane, 2,4,5-T, pentachlorophenol, silvex, PCP.

Items containing PCB's: Ballasts from old fluorescent fixtures and capacitors from old appliances including radios, motors and televisions.

Date & Location

Saturday, April 22, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
State Fair Park, 4-H Youth Complex

Saturday, May 20, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
(includes latex paint exchange)
Pfizer Inc., 601 W. Cornhusker

Friday, June 9, 3 to 7 p.m.
Malcolm Fire & Rescue Station
10740 West 2, Malcolm

Saturday, June 10, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
NE Wesleyan University, parking lot
56 & Huntington Streets

Do not bring: latex paint (except May 20), medicines, fertilizers, explosives and ammunition. Batteries, antifreeze and used oil will not be accepted because these items can be recycled.

For more information, call the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department at 441-8040.