



GORDON STATE COLLEGE BED BUG FAQ




Gordon State College Residence Life

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What is Gordon State College doing to prevent bed bugs? To date, there has been no confirmed case of bed bugs in the residence halls. Our students' comfort and satisfaction with on-campus residence is very important to us. As a result, the college has taken measures to purchase bed bug resistant mattresses for each room on campus. Since bed bugs are often found in mattress seams, the mattresses provided in each room have: 1) inverted seams, with tightly woven fabric that is also 2) stain resistant, and 3) flame retardant. These mattresses are unsuitable homes for pests like bed bugs. Additionally, rooms are not furnished with drapes or carpet to prevent providing a safe place for bed bugs to hide while rooms are vacant. Residents are encouraged to frequently wash their bedding. Laundry rooms are located in each residence hall on campus. There is no additional charge for students to use the provided machines.

What is a bed bug? Bed bugs are small nocturnal insects that are notorious for feeding on warm bodies such as humans, and sustaining life from their hosts' blood. These insects have NOT been known to spread disease, but they are a nuisance to anyone who encounters them. Bed bugs have been common in the United States since the arrival of the colonists. About 50 years ago, it was believed that the bed bug epidemic was virtually eliminated; however, in recent years, there has been a resurgence of bed bugs in densely populated residences such as hotels, motels, guest houses, and resorts. For this reason, many students and parents have concerns about life in the residence halls and encounters with these pesky creatures. This material will help you to identify bed bugs, understand how to control the problem, and inform you about the efforts of the Residence Life Office to prevent a bed bug infestation in our residence halls. For more information on bed bugs, please visit the Center for Disease Control website at:

www.cdc.gov/parasites/bedbugs/

How can I lower my chances of having bed bugs?

1. Inspect all places in your home or dorm room that are warm, close to human contact, and have plenty of hiding places including mattresses, box springs, bed linens, furniture, etc.
2. Place your mattress and box springs in bed bug proof encasements. This will prevent bed bugs from using the mattresses and box springs for hiding places and will keep any bed bugs already on them from being able to crawl off.
3. Clean regularly, reduce clutter and even vacuum the mattresses and box springs, paying special attention to the edges. Launder clothing in hot water and dry at high temperatures.
4. Check (minimize as best possible) secondhand furniture or clothing, especially mattresses or box springs for bed bugs.
5. Carefully inspect all items when traveling in the hotel room for signs of bed bugs, especially the mattresses and head-boards.
6. Store luggage on hotel racks or on top of hotel furniture, never on the bed or floor.
7. Inspect all luggage and clothing that comes into your home, especially if you have traveled and stayed overnight in a hotel, motel, or resort.

What do I do if I think I have found bed bugs? In the event you believe you have found a bedbug on campus, the first thing we ask you to do is remain calm. If handled inappropriately, the problem may not be solved efficiently. You may spread bed bugs to other spaces on campus or cause unnecessary panic regarding bed bugs on campus. Many times, incidents involving bed bugs are false alarms. In the event that you think a bed bug has been spotted, please immediately submit a work order request through the housing webpage. Facilities personnel will investigate the situation further. PLEASE do not remove bedding from the room, and do not take clothing to other rooms to prevent the potential spread of insects. Lastly, approach the situation with discretion and confidentiality to prevent possible panic in the event it is a false alarm. If you have concerns regarding your health, you are encouraged to visit the campus health center.

Where do bed bugs live?

Usually in a mattress or box spring BUT they can hide just about anywhere!

Check these places also:

***Window Treatments**

***Dressers**

***Desks**

***Chairs**

***Nightstands**

***Tables**

***Headboards/Footboards**

***Baseboards**

***Electronics**

***Closets**

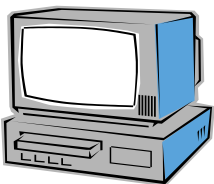
***Clothing**

***Book bags**

***Wall Outlets**

***Luggage**

Bed bugs are excellent “hitchhikers” enabling them to be transported wherever people live, work, and play.



How to identify bed bugs? Bed bugs are more visible than you might think! Adult bed bugs are roughly the size of a pencil eraser or an apple seed. While bed bugs grow in stages, the bed bug in its smallest phase is still visible with the naked eye and is about the size of the tip of a pencil. Bed bugs are red or brown in color and have flat bodies. Another common indicator that bed bugs have invaded your living space is small red dots on bedding. In some cases, this is a bug's feces. Since bed bugs ingest blood for survival, these red dots and markings will look like blood. In many cases, the red marks are from bed bugs that have been squished onto the bedding by their human host in their sleep. If bed bugs are present, you can often find bugs in the creases of mattresses, curtains, and carpeted areas. Since they develop in phases, bed bug exoskeletons can be found in areas of infestation. Eggs can sometimes be seen in the seams of the mattress. Bites from bed bugs are the least helpful indicator of their presence since they resemble mosquito or flea bites.

<https://www.epa.gov/bedbugs>

Bed Bug Anatomy

