

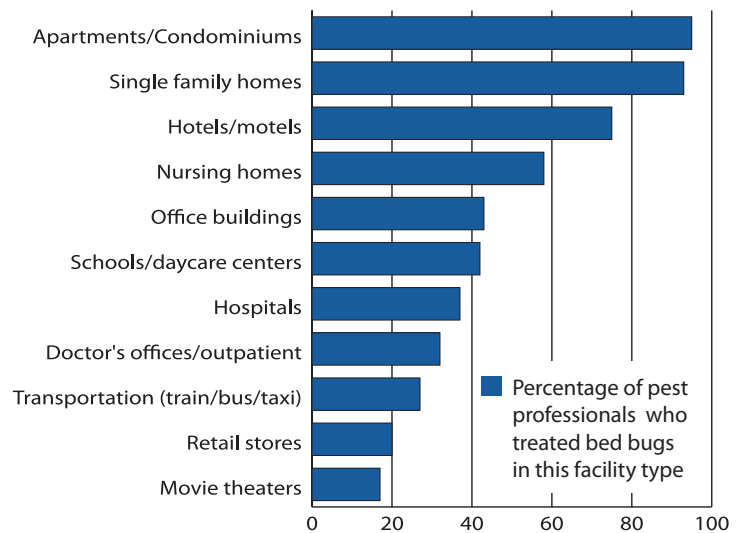
Summer is the Top Time for Bed Bugs

Although bed bugs are not a seasonal pest, pest control operators report receiving more calls for bed bugs during the summer, according to the [National Pest Management Association](#) (NPMA) and the University of Kentucky's 2015 [Bugs Without Borders](#) survey. People may unknowingly spread or transport more bed bugs back home during the summer months due to increased travel, hotel stays, and use of public transportation compared with other times of year.

Residences and hotels continue to be the top places where pest professionals find and treat bed bugs, according to the Bugs Without Borders survey, so it is important to stay alert during your trip. The survey of U.S. pest professionals found that bed bug infestations continue at high rates, with 99.6 percent of pest control professionals who responded indicated that they have treated for bed bugs in the past year. This is significantly higher than just 15 years ago, when only 25 percent of pest professionals reported treating for bed bugs.



Where are Pest Professionals Finding Bed Bugs?



**Note - percentages denote percentages of pest professionals reporting treating bed bugs in specific locations in a given year, not the percentage of facilities with recorded infestations.*

The graph above shows the most common places bed bugs are found. Some of the more unusual places reported as harboring bed bugs include a prosthetic leg, a dance club, a tow boat on the Ohio River, and, believe it or not, a casket with a deceased body. Due to their adaptability to many locations, needing only human blood to survive, bed bugs remain one of the toughest pests to stop. They remain the most challenging pest to treat according to 68 percent of survey respondents.

How To Ensure Bed Bugs Don't Follow You Home

- Be aware of your surroundings while staying in hotel rooms or utilizing public transportation.
- Check hotel rooms for signs of bed bugs ([go here to see the signs](#)). Look on, underneath, and behind the mattress, box spring, headboard, and bed skirt.
- Store luggage away from sleeping areas.
- Upon arriving home, run clothing (clean or dirty) through a hot dryer before putting away in drawer or the hamper. A hot dryer kills all bed bugs, eggs to adults, in 20 minutes.



Has Bed Bug Pesticide Resistance Met its Match?

Research on a [newly created fungal biopesticide](#) shows that it may be highly effective against even insecticide-resistant bed bug populations. Aprehend, a mycoinsecticide developed at Penn State University, could provide an important new tool for managing infestations.

Bed bugs have shown resistance to the killing power of most pesticides, leading to a resurgence of the pest across the U.S. Alternative control methods vary in cost, complexity, and effectiveness. For example, while heat treatment can effectively kill bed bugs, the cost can be prohibitive, ranging from \$500 to \$1000 per room.

The need for a more cost effective solution led entomologist Nina Jenkins and colleagues at Penn State to research better alternatives. The result was the creation of Aprehend, formulated from a fungus that has previously demonstrated effectiveness against malaria vectors, cockroaches, and house flies. The natural fungus in Aprehend can be applied as a long-lasting barrier, causing disease in insects which is then spread among the bed bugs, killing 95% within a week, including insecticide-resistant bugs.

Although Aprehend is still patent-pending, this advancement in biotechnology may prove to be a promising new tool to control insecticide resistant bed bugs. Read the full study [here](#).

Top 10 U.S. Vacation Destination Bed Bug Rankings

Take care to avoid bringing home an unintended “souvenir” during your summer travel! Every year, Orkin releases a ranking of [Top 50 Bed Bugs Cities](#), based on data from metropolitan areas where they have performed the most treatments. Baltimore tops this year’s list, moving up nine spots since last year, while Chicago has dropped two spots to #3. Here is a list of the top ten cities:

1. Baltimore (+9)
2. Washington, D.C. (+1)
3. Chicago (-2)
4. New York
5. Columbus, Ohio
6. Los Angeles (-4)
7. Detroit
8. Cincinnati
9. Philadelphia (-3)
10. San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose (+4)

Orkin has treated for bed bugs in all 50 states, and according to Orkin Entomologist and Director of Technical Services Ron Harrison, Ph.D., bed bugs are a growing issue. “We have more people affected by bed bugs in the United States now than ever before,” says Harrison.

Bed bugs are great hitchhikers, hiding in luggage, purses, clothing, and other belongings. However, taking the right precautions while travelling can protect your home and make sure that whatever happens on vacation, stays on vacation. See “How to Ensure Bed Bugs Don’t Follow You Home” on page 1.

Recent and Upcoming Events

Get training in your community! MPAC hosted four Beating Back Bed Bugs webinars so far this year and three regional bed bug workshops in Uptown, Little Village, and Englewood. We have also moved beyond Chicago to Peoria and Palatine, where we collaborated with Stop Pests in Housing to host a full-day workshop featuring renowned entomologist Dr. Dini Miller. Inquire about bringing an event to your area at (773) 878-7378 or general@pesticideaction.org.

We will be hosting several community outreach events this summer, including events at several Chicago Ward Offices near you. Please check the [MPAC Events](#) page for more details and information on how to sign up.