


Bed-bugs

	Bed-bug
Photo courtesy of Bayer Environmental Science	
Colour	Reddish-brown
Size	Average $\frac{1}{5}$ inch (5 mm) – the size and shape of a small ladybird
Symptoms	Itching or bite marks (round and red with a white centre) after sleeping
Active	At night

Treatment for bed-bugs

For bed-bugs in a family home, phone 020 7364 5007, Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm, and we will make an appointment to visit you.

We treat the mattress and bed with insecticide, along with skirting boards, doorframes and wall-ceiling junctions.

We will also treat wardrobes and chests of drawers if you have prepared these prior to the visit.

IMPORTANT Before we arrive, you **MUST** remove the bedclothes and any duvet, so we can treat the mattress and bed-frame, and empty wardrobes or drawers we are going to treat.

Pillow cases, sheets and duvet covers removed from the bed should be given a hot wash (over 60 C) to kill any insects which may be on them.

This preparation is **ESSENTIAL** to protect you from the effects of the treatment – if the preparation is not complete when we arrive we will carry out treatment where possible but its effectiveness is likely to be reduced, resulting in a further visit being needed, with further cost to yourself..

Please note that it may take up to five weeks for the treatment to eliminate all the bed-bugs, so it is not worth arranging further treatment for six weeks.

See if you qualify for a [free service](#) or find out [how much we will charge](#)

For bed-bugs in a [house in multiple occupation](#), the landlord should phone 020 7364 5007, Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm, and we will arrange to discuss the service and cost.

Dealing with bed-bugs yourself

If you decide not to use our service or want to take action before your appointment, there are alternatives:

- Specialist insecticides for bed-bugs are available.
- However, we recommend seeking professional advice and treatment.

Preventing bed-bugs coming into your home

- Take care when buying used furniture, bedding or books, which can conceal bed-bugs.
- If you find bedbugs in anything you have purchased please report this to Environmental Health on 020 7364 5008, with details of where you bought the item.