WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?

The adult bed bug is red to brown in colour, 4 – 5mm long, oval, flattened from back to underside and possesses an objectionable smell. It has well developed legs and no wings.

WHERE DO THEY LIVE?

Bed bugs are usually found in floor cracks, under carpets, behind loose wallpaper, wall pictures, loose skirting boards and door frames, in the seams of mattresses or even behind the eyes of soft toys. Bed bugs can be found in the cleanest of homes and hotels through insects being bought in with infested furniture, baggage or clothing.

WHAT DO THEY EAT?

Adult bed bugs feed exclusively on blood, generally only at night. They prefer human blood but can survive on animal blood. They can ingest 7 times their body weight in one feed and if no host is available adults may live up to a year without food.

DISEASE TRANSMISSION

Bed bugs are not thought to transmit any serious illnesses to humans; however the bite can cause considerable irritation and may result in loss of sleep and lowering of general health.

CONTROL MEASURES

The routine washing of bedding and clothing at a high temperature, followed by drying in a tumble dryer at normal temperature, can kill bedbugs and any eggs present.

However bedbugs can be very difficult to treat therefore we would advise you contact a pest control company for treatment of any infestation.

Please remember when using insecticides ALWAYS follow the instructions on the label.

Fenland District Council does not offer treatment for Bedbugs

For further advice please contact Environmental Health on 01354 654321 or email envhealth@fenland.gov.uk