



How To Check Your Hotel Room For Bedbugs

Summer is coming, which means many people will be taking a couple of weeks off. This also means they will likely be staying in hotels or motels. And, because everyone is a bit concerned about bedbugs nowadays, I thought I would offer a few tips on how to check your hotel/motel room to ensure it is safe from these little parasites.

First, what to look for: Bedbugs leave red-brown stains, which is usually fecal matter, along with spots of blood, clusters of eggs and molten skin on bed mattresses, upholstery and other areas. Your job is to look for these signs but, beware, they can be very small. Try to keep your clothing away from the areas you are inspecting just in case there are bedbugs. This will help prevent them from getting on your clothes.

Now, the actual steps:

- Pull back the bed cover and top sheet. Look for the signs, especially the reddish brown spots mentioned earlier. Sometimes, the bedbugs leave a trail of evidence. This can make it easier to detect.
- Now, pull back the bed sheet and look for any evidence here as well. Of special concern are the seams in the mattress. Bedbugs often leave their eggs in the seams and, sometimes, you will find them hiding in there as well.
- Before putting the bed back together, take a look at the pillows, especially if there are any seams.
- Now, check around the bed. If the carpeting is dark, this may not be helpful. However, if the carpeting is a lighter color, evidence of bedbugs can often be detected.

- A final step, lift cushions in chairs and sofas nearby. Again, if they are a light color and bedbugs are present, evidence may be detected.

Taking these steps may sound a bit extreme, even farfetched. However, hoteliers are taking bedbugs very seriously. Recently, one of the most famous hotels in New York along with a big-name property in Las Vegas were not only found to have bedbugs, but were sued by hotel guest because of them. Since bedbugs are such a troublesome menace, and may even spread disease, a little checking and taking a few cautious steps from the start can help save a vacation and possibly your health.

Michael Schaffer is the president of [Tornado Industries](#) and has authored several industry articles on the subject of bedbugs. He has also published a white paper, [Effective Treatment of Bedbug Infestations](#), which suggests ways the JanSan industry can help eradicate bedbugs and do so in a more environmentally responsible manner.