What is a bedbug?
Bedbugs are insects. They are oval-shaped bugs that are wingless and do not fly.

What do bedbugs look like?
They have a flat body and adults are roughly the same size as a lentil.

When are bedbugs active?
Bedbugs are nocturnal. They are primarily active at night.

Where can I find more information about bedbugs?
The Internet is a great resource for learning more about bedbugs. However, there is a great deal of information out there that is unhelpful or inaccurate. The following websites are a good starting point to learn more:

- University of Kentucky Department of Entomology
  www.uky.edu/Ag/Entomology/entfacts/struct/ef636.htm

- Harvard University Bedbug Information
  www.hsph.harvard.edu/bedbugs/
Where do bedbugs live?

Bedbugs do not only live in beds! They can live in very tiny spaces such as baseboards, electrical outlets, ceiling fans, and underneath or inside electronics. Other harborages may include:

- In seams of mattresses
- Behind bed headboards and bed frames
- Between cracks and crevices of walls and floor moldings
- Where carpeting adjoins walls
- In furniture and dresser drawers
- In seams of curtains that touch the floor

But I thought bedbugs happened only to dirty people?!

This is a common misconception. Bedbugs do not have a preference of sanitary conditions. However, to control bedbugs it is helpful to reduce their harborages, which may mean reducing clutter.

How are bedbugs transmitted?

Bedbugs move from place to place by “hitchhiking” in or on items such as luggage, backpacks and furniture. It is unusual and unlikely to transmit bedbugs from person to person.

How do I know if I have bedbugs?

Since bedbugs are hard to spot because they are small and nocturnal, often the first sign of them is bites. These bites can come from many sources besides bedbugs, so if you suspect that bedbugs are present, it is important to investigate.

Can I get a disease from bedbugs?

Bedbugs are not known to transmit diseases.

How do I get rid of bedbugs?

Standard consumer pest sprays are not helpful for managing bedbugs so it is highly recommended that you partner with a pest control professional who is experienced. Or, if you live on campus, get the residence life department involved immediately.

- Begin by carefully inspecting your residence for places that bedbugs can hide
- Eliminate as many bedbug-friendly hiding places as possible
- Wash and dry all washable items and treat non-washable items with heat, and thoroughly inspect them
- If you are getting rid of any potentially infested items be sure to label them “contaminated” so that no one picks them up from the trash

How do I find a reputable exterminator?

- Ask for references from other customers who have had bedbugs
- Talk specifically about how they treat bedbugs
- Obtain several bids so that you are sure you are getting a fair price
- Check with the local board of health to determine if there is any information on companies in your area
- Ask how many treatments will be required
- Be sure to talk about how the treatments will affect your family and pets (will you need to vacate your home and for how long)

* Note: If you live on campus, talk with the residence life department for assistance with this step.

How can I prevent bedbugs from entering my residence?

- Educate yourself about bedbugs
- Only purchase furniture from reputable vendors. Some vendors remarket used furniture as new.
- Inspect furniture before it is brought into your residence/building
- Do not bring furniture or other items into your residence that you find on the street
- If you are exposed to bedbugs outside your residence, clean and inspect everything that has been exposed before bringing it into your space
- If you suspect bedbugs, act quickly to determine if they are present so you can respond promptly

Don’t be ashamed or embarrassed to discuss bedbugs. They are not an indicator of how clean/unclean you are. It’s better to get the proper people involved instead of ignoring potential bedbug outbreaks. They only get worse.