

Bed Bugs



Bedbugs are not known to carry diseases but their bites can cause irritation.

There are two main types of bedbug – the common bedbug and the martin bug.

The martin bug normally lives in birds nests, but it can bite humans.

Bedbugs breed by laying eggs which usually hatch out after about 10 to 20 days. The bugs then grow through a series of stages, and at each stage they need to feed on blood. This happens until they become adults after about nine to 18 weeks.

Bedbugs can be found in the seams of mattresses and soft furnishings, cracks in walls and around door frames, in drawers, under skirting boards and so on where they hide when not feeding.

Bedbugs are the most difficult insects to get rid of. At least two treatments are needed and every possible hiding place needs to be sprayed.

Our contractor carries out treatments in people's homes and our contractor will tell you how you should prepare rooms for treatment.

The service

The chemicals used are approved for use in people's homes, but they are strong-smelling and rooms usually have to be aired for 24 hours before you can use them again.

People's first reaction of bedbugs is to get rid of the bed and mattress. This is a waste of money as the new bed and mattress will quickly become infected.

Another common reaction is to take off the bedclothes and wash them. This can cause the bugs to be spread throughout the house. Bedding and other materials being taken out of infected rooms for washing should be placed in bin bags.

It is almost impossible to get rid of bedbugs yourself. You should always get professional advice.

Safety information

The insecticides our contractor uses are the safest available and do not generally pose a risk to people or pets (except for fish).



(not actual size)

(Fish have a similar body type to insects, so can be affected if they come into contact with insecticide).

The contractor will leave you an information sheet about the insecticide they used.

Fees and charges

We have negotiated treatment at a reduced charge for residents who pay Council Tax to Rochford District Council. For a full list of our fees and charges please visit our Pest Control page on our website at www.rochford.gov.uk/pestcontrol or phone our customer services team on 01702 318111.

The reduced rate is not available for treatment if any part of the property is used for business purposes (this may include areas such as corridors and hallways shared by more than one household).

You may be able to get help with the cost of treatment if you are receiving certain state benefits. Please phone us on 01702 318111 to see if you qualify.

Rochford District Council

Council Offices, South Street, Rochford,
Essex SS4 1BW

Phone: **01702 318111**

Email: customerservices@rochford.gov.uk

Website: www.rochford.gov.uk/pestcontrol

If you would like this information in
large print, Braille or another
language phone us on

01702 318111