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It's bedbug season - here's what you need to know

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It's high season for bedbugs, and those who feel their homes may be infested by the pesky blood suckers will likely need to know what their options are - and fast.

Halton Region has received 25 bedbug-related calls from concerned residents so far in 2018 (and 42 bedbug-related calls in total in 2017), said Dr. Hamidah Meghani, Halton Region's commissioner and medical officer of health.

Although the region says bedbug infestations are not reportable through their health department, representatives are available to aid residents in confirming if they, indeed, are experiencing

Here's what you need to know about bedbugs:

They come out at night

Bedbugs are visible throughout the day, but they most commonly bite at night. The hide out in mattresses, but also in other tight spaces, such as in baseboards and behind wallpaper.

The bites resemble mosquito bites

Bedbug bites are itchy red bumps that vary in size and severity, depending on the person who has been bitten and whether or not the bite has been aggravated at all. The appearance of bedbug bites is quite similar to that of mosquito

Like mosquito bites, if you don't scratch, bedbug bites will likely disappear quickly. Bedbugs are not known to carry any viruses.

Bed bugs look like tiny brown seeds

If you are wondering how these pests look, they are comparable to small, dark brown seeds. Bedbugs are oval in shape, they are flat, and they don't have wings. Adults are six to 10 millimetres in length. After feeding, the bugs swell up with blood and become red.

Bedbug eggs are white, as tiny as a pinhead and often found in clusters.



Bed bugs look like small, brown, oval-shaped seeds.

Bedbugs will feed on pets, too

Bedbugs are not only a nuisance to you and your family members, they will also bite other mammals and birds.

Having a bedbug infestation does not reflect the cleanliness of your home

Bedbugs are brought in from outside sources. How clean or dirty a home is not an indication of why there is a bed bug infestation.

Contacting a pest-control company is an efficient option to get rid of bedbugs

However, according to Halton Region, there are a few other methods residents can try to get things under control:

- Vacuum sleeping areas
- · Place vacuum bag in a sealed plastic bag outside to prevent bedbugs from escaping
- · Steam-clean the carpet after vacuuming to help capture more bedbugs and
- Discard all furniture and mattresses that are infested
- · Wash bedding and clothing in hot
- · Clean bedroom frequently and avoid clutter
- · Seal all cracks/crevices/loose wallpaper to reduce shelter space for bed-



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