Important contact information

Identification and help
Dr. Gale E. Ridge (203) 974-8600
Email photographs: gale.ridge@ct.gov
Bed bug website: www.ct.gov/caes

Treatment
Pest Management Professionals who are state licensed and work with bed bugs

http://www.cpcaonline.net/cpca/BedBugList.pdf

State of Connecticut Division of Criminal Justice Housing Session
New Haven, (203) 773-6755
Bridgeport, (203) 579-7237
Hartford, (860) 756-7810
New London, (860) 443-8444
E-mail: judith.dicine@po.state.ct.us
(please write bed bug in the subject box)

Connecticut Department of Public Health, local health administration
Hartford, CT (860) 509-7660
webmaster.dph@ct.gov (please write bed bug in the subject box)

Enforcement, Certification
DEP pesticide management division
Hartford CT (860) 424-3369
E-mail: diane.jorsey@ct.gov (please write bed bug in the subject box)

Suggestions for health departments
• Once a complaint is received, identify the insect, do not rely on hearsay
• In multi-unit housing, identify human social networks (friendships within a building, home help, family, common areas etc.) which could spread bed bugs
• Know Connecticut landlord– tenant laws and health department regulations
• Remain calm and professional and be available to coordinate treatment activities
• Educate citizens using handouts and/or meetings to erode anxiety and stigma and foster cooperation
• Once treatment is complete always follow up around 10 days later with calls and/or visits
• Keep detailed records

http://www.ct.gov/caes
http://www.cpcaonline.net/cpca/BedBugList.pdf

Varied carpet beetle

Lint and/or debris

Look-a-likes

Ticks

Spider beetles etc.

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Your local health department
Considerations for “biting” reports

Citizens who report unexplained biting

Bed bugs have piercing sucking mouthparts, they do not have biting mouthparts (see photograph above).

Insect feeding lesions especially bed bugs, are inconclusive unless the insects are found. Each person reacts differently to feeding, and skin reaction times vary from immediate up to 14 days post feeding. Reactions vary from nothing to severe blistering. Feeding sites are often itchy. Do not rely on feeding patterns such a lines or clusters of “bites” to diagnose bed bug activity, bed bug feeding is often random.

Other causes for reported “insect biting” may include:-

- Delusions of Parasitosis/Eckbom syndrome
- Numerous allergies
- Stress, anxiety, isolation, and/or depression
- Medical conditions such as thyroid, menopause, legal and illegal drug reaction, dry skin, anemia, diabetes, arthritis, aging, auto immune disease, medical error, stroke, disease, and so on
- Poisoning from carbon monoxide, fluoride, or heavy metals etc.