

# Tips on what to do if you have been bitten by bed bugs at a hotel

- ◆ If you are still at the hotel, you should try to capture at least one bed bug and try to keep it in a bag or sealed cup for safekeeping.
- ◆ If you see the bed bugs and cannot capture them, take pictures and video of them.
- ◆ In some cases you may not see the actual bed bugs in your hotel as they bite when you are sleeping. You may see black fecal spots or blood stains on your sheets. You may also see dead bed bugs or bed bug skin in the hotel room. If you lift the mattress in your hotel room you may find evidence of bed bugs which should be photographed. Take pictures and video of any evidence of bed bugs that you see.
- ◆ Report the incident to an employee, manager, or any representative at the hotel or motel.
- ◆ Have the representative from the hotel or motel write a report documenting all circumstances surrounding the bed bug infestation. Make sure the report includes the date, time, location (room number) and any witness's names and contact information. Most importantly, make sure to get a copy of the report for your own records. Write down the name and contact information of the person that you filed your report with. Also, write down the name and contact information of any person that the hotel sends to inspect your room. Ask for the name of the cleaning person who last cleaned your room.



◆ Move to another hotel or motel, but before doing so you must place all of your clothing, suit cases and other belongings into sealed bags as the bed bugs will travel on your belongings. You must be extremely cautious if you decide to take your suitcase and other belongings with you. The bed bugs may have laid eggs on your clothing and these eggs are difficult to see with the naked eye. Additionally, bed bugs that are less than 4 weeks old are so small that you may have difficulty seeing them in or on your belongings. You should take pictures or video of any clothing and other items that you decide to discard or leave with the hotel. The hotel can try to treat your belongings for you.

◆ Seek medical treatment for your bed bug bites at an emergency room, hospital, walk-in clinic, dermatologist or with your primary care physician. Everyone responds differently to bed bug bites. Depending on the time that has elapsed since your initial bed bug bites your skin will have different reactions. Follow all instructions and prescriptions recommendations provided by the medical provider.



◆ **TAKE PHOTOS.** Take photos and videos on a daily basis of all your bed bug bites. The more photos and videos you take the more evidence you have to document your claim and injuries. Take the photos of your bites from multiple angles.

◆ **MORE EVIDENCE COLLECTED = STRONGER CLAIM.**

◆ Keep accurate records of all out of pocket expenses for instance, hospital and doctor bills, prescription receipts, extermination invoices, clothing receipts, hotel bill, and receipts for all expenses incurred as a result of the infestation.

◆ Do not provide any statements or speak with an insurance company or hotel/motel representative before consulting with an attorney. Some hotels will try to get you to quickly sign a document which could eliminate your right to bring a claim for your damages. Do not sign any documents provided by management without first having an attorney review the documents. Some hotels and motels are known for tricking guests into signing a release in exchange for a either a refund, some free nights at the property and a minimal cash settlement.

- ◆ Create a daily journal. In the journal make sure to document all events and details surrounding the infestation. Keep detailed notes of the names of any person you speak with including the names of any managers, housekeepers, exterminators, doctors, representatives from the Department of Health and Department of Business and Professional Regulations, and person that has knowledge or information about the infestation. Make sure to include the date and if possible the time for each entry in the journal. Additionally, include the dates when the bites took place, location and number of bites. It is imperative that you write down everything and anything that you think may be important to your claim. You should write down how you feel each day as a result of the bed bugs.
- ◆ The bed bug lawyers at Attorneys Dell & Schaefer are available to provide you with a free consultation to discuss how we can help you to obtain compensation for your injuries, property damage, loss wages, inconvenience and incidental costs that you incurred following your “unpleasant incident” with bed bug bites. **Call us at (800) 435-2085 to request a free consultation.**

