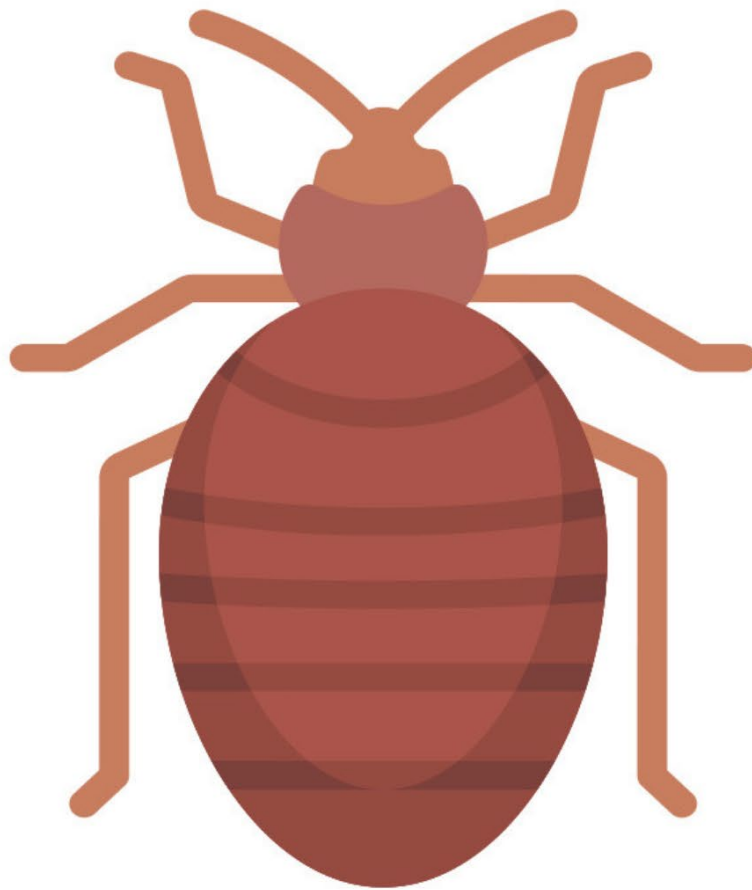


**BEDBUG LAW**  
Attorneys for BED BUG Injuries

PRESENTS

# BED BUGS BITE



*A guide to Bed Bug infestations and injury claims*

**ATTORNEY GRANT SCHWARZ**

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## Purpose of this Guide

Bed bug infestations and injuries are on the rise in every state in the country. As the summer approached and people travel, the number of reported bed bug injuries skyrockets. This guide is to help educate you about bed bugs, what they are, what they do and most importantly how to reduce your risk of exposure and injury.

Bed bugs are disgusting creatures that can ruin your vacation and follow you home. Whether traveling for work or pleasure; staying in a hotel, resort, motel, Airbnb, vacation rental is supposed to be a pleasurable experience. You don't have to make your own bed or clean your bathroom. You can pick up your phone and order more towels, sheets or even an ice cream sundae. What you don't expect is to have your stay suddenly disrupted by parasites cutting your stay short and sending you to the hospital.

## Disclaimer

The information provided on this website and its contents is strictly for informational purposes. The viewing and use of this website or contacting our office for a claim consultation does not create an attorney client relationship. The information contained on this website does not constitute legal advice. **Our office represents bed bug injury claimants, is admitted to practice in and may file lawsuits in the state of Florida, New York and in Washington District of Columbia.** Our office is headquartered in Hollywood, Florida. Our office may provide advice as to how a claim may be submitted to an insurance carrier for injuries resulting from bed bug bites anywhere in any state. Most bed bug injury claims are settled prior to any lawsuit filed in court. If a case is unable to settle prior to litigation in some jurisdictions, local litigation counsel must be retained to pursue the case in court.



## Bed Bug Claims and Lawsuits

Most legal cases arise from vehicle accidents and slip/fall accidents. Victims of automobile accidents are often bombarded with television commercials, radio commercials, print ads and even advertisements in the mail from personal injury attorneys. Often automobile accident cases work themselves out relatively easily. One party is often at fault for the crash, the insurance companies get involved the claim gets paid. In accident cases, insurance companies will usually pay for medical bills, lost wages and even pain and suffering to resolve a claim. In fact, in the great majority of accident cases, attorneys are never even involved.

The same cannot be said for those attacked by bed bugs. Bed bug injuries include bite marks, permanent scars, lesions, allergic reactions, hyperpigmentation of the skin, emotional distress, insomnia and anxiety to name a few. Not all injuries are obvious, and everyone attacked by bed bugs suffers differently.

It is important to recognize that everything that happens after a bed bug attack will have legal implications. In the immediate aftermath of a bed bug attack most of our clients report being confused, scared, unable to rest or sleep, unable to focus and in considerable pain and discomfort. Much like any other type of injury case, it begins with disorder and chaos.

However, with a little help from an attorney, bed bug bite victims can start to get back to order and clear thoughts. Bed bug bite victims, particularly in hotels, will report the incident immediately. They will likely be moved to a different room and sometimes be refunded a night's stay or offered a free meal or gift card to a local restaurant. Most people accept this offer in gratitude not realizing that the hotel is liable for their injuries and could be entitled to a great deal more than a free meal or night at a hotel.

If you have been attacked by bed bugs at a hotel, motel, Airbnb, vacation rental, resort or any other property, how do you know if you have a case? How do you know what your case could be worth? For injury cases, there is no set or readily available source to figure out what your case is worth. Even if a property manager or insurance company offers to pay you for your injuries, how do you know if the amount is reasonable?

The full value of any injury case lies with how evidence is gathered and presented. Only an experienced attorney will be able to both evaluate your case and present it in the best light possible. Injury cases require a substantial amount of time, knowledge and paperwork to be handled properly and successfully.

Our office has handled bed bug injury claims for thousands of individuals and families across the United States and abroad. Let our experience work for you. While no attorney

can promise a specific result, we are confident in our ability to evaluate your case and add value to your claim by investigating and presenting your evidence the best way possible.

# **BEDBUG LAW**

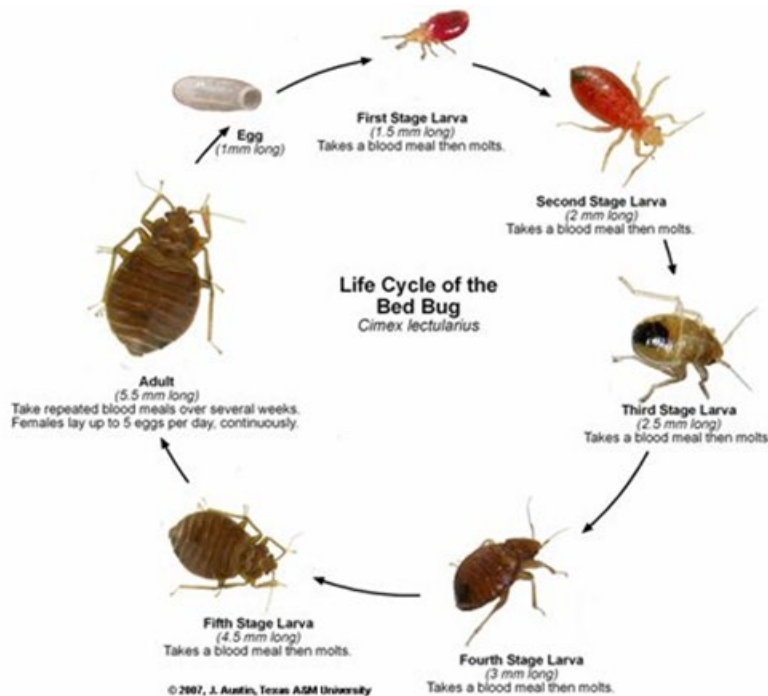
## **Attorneys for BED BUG Injuries**

Our office provides free case evaluations to determine if we can be of assistance. Call **855-533-5552** or visit [www.bedbuglaw.com](http://www.bedbuglaw.com).

*"If you have had bed bugs, you deserve compensation for your injuries and losses."*

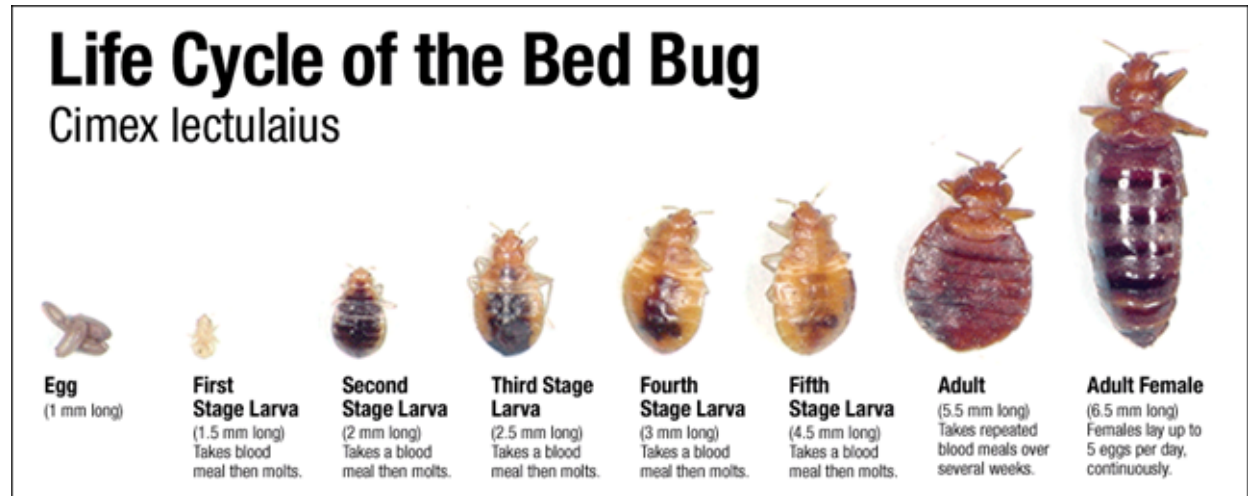
### **What are Bed Bugs?**

Bed Bugs, *Cimex lectularius*, are small insects about five millimeters long, oval-shaped, and flattened top to bottom. They resemble ticks or immature cockroaches. Bed bug adults are reddish-brown while nymphs (young bed bugs) are yellowish-white prior to feeding.



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Bed bugs have been around and have pestered human beings and infested living spaces for thousands of years. Bed bugs had all but been eradicated until certain pesticides including DDT were banned. As a result, there has been a resurgence of reported infestations in nearly every American city.



Bed bugs may live for up to two years or longer. During that time, females lay nearly 500 eggs. Females will attach their small white eggs in crevices and creases in furniture and mattresses. From egg to adult can take approximately 5 weeks under good conditions. Once hatched, bed bugs go through 5 separate life stages of development. To grow to each stage, a bed bug requires a blood meal. Bed bugs can survive for long periods of time without feeding.

*“With the increase of travel in the United States, so too the amount of bed bug infestations.”*

## Where do Bed Bugs hide?

Bed bugs are indoor insects and do not infest outdoor areas. Bed bugs survive by feeding on human blood. Bed bugs get their name because they most often are found in beds feeding on people as they sleep. A bed bug will likely bite a person and feed for several minutes. After feeding, bed bugs will retreat to a safe place to digest, produce droppings, shed their skins and reproduce. Bed bugs do not often scurry about and can be difficult to detect without proper training.



Bed bugs are small, round and flat often compared to the size of an apple seed, only flatter. Their small size makes it easy for bed bugs to hide in small tight spaces. In the beginning of an infestation, bed bugs will hide most near a bed, in a mattress crease or in the box spring. Being close to a food source is what bed bugs seek the most. In addition to beds, bed bugs will infest couches, chairs, love seats or other furniture where people spend time or rest. Bed bugs tend to prefer fabric and wood surfaces which make it easy for them to climb.

Bed bugs will distribute themselves throughout a hotel or apartment building by walking in between walls and electrical outlets. Bed bugs can walk through and infest an entire furniture warehouse or showroom in a matter of weeks. Bed bugs can also be distributed on peoples clothing, luggage, furniture, boxes and other items.

*“Bed bugs hide in clothes, mattresses, mattress beddings and other dark areas.”*

## Tools to Find Bed Bugs

Bed bugs are visible with the naked eye but some ordinary items can help you discover whether there is a bed bug infestation in your hotel room or on your furniture.

- Flashlight (most cellphones contain one)
- Magnifying glass
- Plastic baggies
- A Pen or other thin sturdy stick for peeking under crevices

*Bed bugs hide almost anywhere but prefer places where people rest.*

*Creases and crevices in beds and couches are perfect hiding spaces for bed bugs.*

## Symptoms of a Bed Bug Infestation

When looking for bed bugs, you are more likely to find evidence that bed bugs were present, rather than finding live bugs. Look for things like:

- Shed skin casings
- Fecal spotting
- Dead bed bugs
- Eggs
- Blood stained fabrics
- Live bugs
- Sweet musty odor



Other common areas to find bed bug activity:

- Baseboards and corners of rooms
- Gaps in flooring
- Loose or peeling wallpaper
- Electrical outlets – both in and around
- Window coverings and curtains touching or near the floor
- Tears of carpet
- Under rugs
- Night stands and end tables near frequently used furniture



If you find live bugs, it is important to notify management so that a Pest Management Professional can confirm the infestation and treat the infested area. Once a live bug is found, stop searching because you are likely to distribute bed bugs to other areas and infest your own belongings.



*“Checking for a bed bug infestation and gathering evidence is key to receiving compensation.”*

## **What do Bed Bug bites look Like?**

Where there are bed bug infestations, there will be injuries. The bed bugs feed on humans by injecting their needle like mouths into the skin and withdraw blood. This feeding pattern is like a mosquito or any other blood feeding insect. The bed bug saliva creates a mild numbing sensation on the skin causing the initial bite from the bed bug to be painless. Bed bugs will feed on any area of exposed skin. There is no preference for one part of the body to any other when it comes to bed bug bites. The most common locations for bed bug bites are on the arms, hands, legs and feet. These body parts are often the most commonly exposed skin areas when sleeping.

Most people do not realize they have been bitten by bed bugs. Red bite marks can appear after a few minutes, hours or even days. Once the bite marks appear, they will be raised, itchy and very uncomfortable. Bed bugs feed on humans and leave distinctive patterns of bite marks. The distinctive “straight line” or “string” pattern comes from bed bugs biting numerous times or from several bed bugs walking up to a specific portion of exposed skin.



Bed bug bites, once they appear, can be extremely painful and itchy. Repeated scratching leaves victims with open lesions which can become infected and often lead to scarring and discoloration. Many people describe hyperpigmentation, darkening of the skin, after a bed bug bite has healed. These marks can last for years if not properly treated.

Bed Bug Bites are painful and unsightly. However, the worst injury for most people comes from the emotional distress felt after having been attacked. Being attacked and fed upon during sleep, when we are most vulnerable is very stress inducing. Many of our clients complain about anxiety and difficulty sleeping or being comfortable for months or years after they have encountered bed bugs. Some clients refuse to ever stay at a hotel again after they were exposed to bed bugs and injured at hotels, motels or resorts.

If you have been attacked by bed bugs it is recommended that you seek medical attention. Doctors will often prescribe oral as well as topical anti-histamine medications. There are several over the counter drugs options available at your local drug store.

## Can I Sue a Hotel for Bed Bug and Bed Bug bites in a Hotel Room?

Yes, if you were exposed to bed bugs in a hotel room, you can file a claim against the hotel for compensation for your injuries. Hotel owners and managers owe a duty of care to their guests to provide a safe environment free of dangerous conditions. Bed bug infestations are dangerous conditions and should never be allowed to exist in a hotel room where it can injure a guest.

In order to file a lawsuit or make a claim against a hotel for injuries caused by a bed bug infestation, you must prove that the owners and managers were negligent. If it can be proved that the hotel knew or should have known about the bed bug infestation and took no steps to fix it, you will have a good claim against them for injuries.

Hotel guests can sue for bed bug bite injuries if the owners, managers, housekeeping staff or even the pest control company maintaining the property were negligent. We have handled thousands of claims against hotels and motels across the country.

### How to Sue a Hotel for Giving You Bed Bugs

1. Gather evidence of the infestation in your hotel room. While statements that you saw the infestation are helpful, the best evidence comes in the form of physical evidence.
2. Take pictures of bed bugs on the sheets, mattress, box spring, head board, couches or any other furniture and the carpeting and the walls of your hotel room.
3. Also take pictures of any bite marks you have suffered. Bed bug bites show up in a straight line or in small clusters. They may not itch at first, but they will be red and raised.
4. If the reaction to the bed bug bites is bad enough, seek medical help. Constant scratching will result in an open wound which could lead to infection and permanent scarring. Medical attention early on will help alleviate the painful symptoms and prevent scarring.
5. Contact the local county or city department of health or department of business and professional regulation. These are governing bodies which regulate hospitality industries and other businesses to ensure compliance with local law and health standards. Make a report immediately and let them know what hotel and what room you stayed in. They will likely conduct an investigation and confirm a bed bug infestation.
6. Make a written report to the hotel management office. Take names of everyone you spoke to and make notes about what they said. Get business cards from managers or hotel representatives as proof that you spoke to them. You are able to ask management when your room was last cleaned and inspected for bed bugs. Take

clear notes about what anyone working at the hotel told you. Be aware that not every state allows you to record conversations without permission. It could be considered a crime to record someone against their will.

7. Gather all of your evidence before speaking with hotel management. Once you complain about the infestation, it is not likely that the hotel manager will allow you back in the room for any purpose other than to gather your belongings and get out. Get your evidence together before this happens.
8. Many hotels, especially ones privately owned, will seek to offer free nights or cash refunds to compensate you for your bad experience at their property. Do not accept any offers because this could be construed as a settlement. Never sign anything presented to you regarding your claim without speaking with an attorney first.
9. Talk to a bed bug lawyer for a free case evaluation. Most attorneys are not aware that this area of law exists, let alone how to handle a bed bug claim. Always get legal advice from an attorney experienced in the area of law you need. Bed bug law is highly specialized and requires a lot of experience to be successful. Our staff has handled thousands of bed bug injury claims to get the most compensation for you.

## Do I Need a Lawyer to Sue a Hotel for Bed Bugs?

No. Anyone can file a claim or a lawsuit anywhere any time. The term for representing yourself is "Pro-Se". A Pro Se litigant is a person who is representing themselves in a claim or in court. There is an old saying that a person who represents themselves has a fool for a client. Nowhere is this more than true than in dealing with bed bug cases.

If you were injured by bed bugs at a hotel, you have a bed bug lawyer to help file your claim and sue the hotel responsible for your bed bug injuries. Hotels have insurance companies and attorneys who represent them and seek to stop your claim at every phase. To protect your rights and make sure your claim is handled properly, an experience bed bug lawyer is a necessity.

Our staff and lawyers will handle your claim at every phase. We have the experience in bed bug lawsuits to successfully handle your case. Being injured by bed bugs and suffering the pain and anxiety from the bites is very stressful. Insurance companies and attorneys will take advantage of this and urge you to settle for minimal amounts to make the case go away. Our attorneys are experienced in speaking with these people and can handle your claim so you can focus on recovery and getting back to a normal life.

## Compensation for Hotel Bed Bug Victims

Victims of personal injuries caused by the intentional or negligent actions of hotel owner, management companies and operators have the right to bed bug bite injury compensation for all injuries suffered. This applies to both economic and non-economic damages.

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Types of damages recovered where an injured individual is able to receive hotel bed bug injury compensation are typically:

1. Medical expenses resulting from the bed bug bite injuries, including prescription and over the counter medication, ongoing treatment or reconstructive surgery.
2. Future cost of medical care, including rehabilitation and cosmetic surgery to eliminate the presence of keloid scarring
3. Pain and suffering is a very common result of a bed bug attack and injuries. Many people report insomnia, feeling bugs crawling on their skin, fear of sleeping in hotels, anxiety, panic attacks, restlessness due to fear of being bitten. These symptoms can last a lifetime.
4. Property damage: Damaged or infested luggage, suitcases, purses, backpacks, clothing, shoes or other personal items that were exposed to bed bugs in the hotel that were either damaged or need cleaning. Many victims are terrified to bring items back home from their stay at the hotel for fear of infesting their homes and simply throw their items away. This is a legitimate fear but do what you can to clean your items before completely discarding them. Property damage claims are rarely paid out dollar for dollar unless you have significant documentation of everything you owned and was damaged because of the bed bugs.
5. Lost Wages: doctor appointments, pain and embarrassment of having dozens of hundreds of bed bug bites on your body can prevent you from attending work. Keep track of any lost work as a result of your injuries.
6. Reimbursement of fees for pest control at home. If you brought bed bugs home with you from the hotel, you may be reimbursed for the cost of treating your home. Proper treatment can be in the thousands of dollars for an average size home or apartment.

*"You deserve to be compensated for all losses related to the bed bug infestation."*

## Steps to Take for a Bed Bug Claim

1. Check your room
2. Gather evidence
3. Report the incident
4. Seek medical treatment
5. Keep track of your losses
6. Call a bed bug attorney

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