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## Past Issues

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### Online Training Available:

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### Pest Management in and Around Structures:

<http://www.eXtension.org/>

## School IPM Focus- Bed Bugs

Bed bugs have been an ongoing issue in Florida schools. We have done several site visits and each time people exclaim that they knew they had "something," but they did not realize the culprit was bed bugs. It takes a little awareness and training to prevent most issues from becoming more than a momentary concern. This article will serve as a brief review of basic bed bug biology, and provide tips on spotting or avoiding bed bugs in the future. For a more in depth review of biology or control information come to our intensive, one-day [Bed Bug Management class at Pest Management University](#) on June 28 (scheduled for after the end-of-school rush). It might help you educate teachers and parents if you can share these links with them: [Bed Bug Infestations](#), [Bed Bug Preparation](#), and [Tips for Parents](#).



## Know the Facts: Bed Bug Biology



- As adults bed bugs are about  $\frac{3}{16}$  inches long
- Bed bugs are a red/brown color
- They are wingless, flat, and oval shaped
- Each life stage requires a blood meal
- Life-cycle: egg, six nymphal stages, adult
- Look for them: they prefer to hide in tight places such as mattress seams, bed frame cracks, or behind baseboard openings

## Avoiding Bed Bugs in the Home or Classroom



Fig 1. Items stored collectively.



Fig 2. Bed bugs, spots, cast skins.

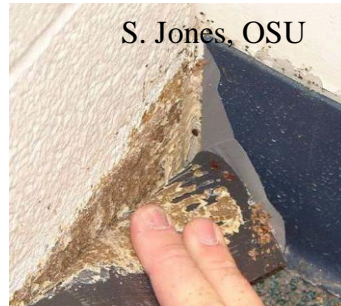


Fig 3. Bed bugs behind baseboard.

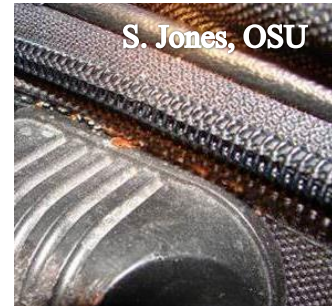


Fig 4. Bed bugs on zipper of luggage.

Being prepared is the key to resolving any problems quickly and safely. For a thorough review of preparing a classroom or home for finding bed bugs, click [here](#).

Here are some tips to get you started:

- Avoid clutter
- Keep items organized and stored separately, this reduces harborage sites and prevents accidental transfer of bed bugs to unaffected items (Fig 1)
- Know the warning signs of bed bugs: Blood spots, cast skins, and live insects (Figs 2, 3, 4)
- Inspect bed skirts, box springs and mattresses, and surrounding furniture items for signs of bed bugs when camping or staying in hotels (Figs 2, 3)
- Inspect luggage and other similar items you take with you after every vacation or extended stay away from home (Photo 3)
- Have an action plan prepared for how a bed bug incident will be handled. Does your school have a policy on whom to notify?
- Prepare quarantine and identification procedures and ensure everyone involved is aware of these steps, being mindful of student privacy issues

## Training Opportunities

### Summary

Click on highlighted course titles for more information or to register.

May 29-31; [GHP Foundations](#)  
Jun 14; [Termite Basics](#)  
Jun 28; [Bed Bug Management](#)

***Must advance through Foundations to qualify for these courses:***

Oct 16-18; [GHP Masters](#)  
Oct 18; 1 pm; GHP state exam (must also meet state requirement)  
Nov 13-15; [Termite Masters](#)  
Nov 15; Termite and WDO exam (must also meet state requirement)

***Must advance through Foundations and Masters for qualify for this course***

Dec 4-6; GHP Expert

## **MAY OFFERINGS**

### **Foundations of General Household Pest Management 101**

Pest control matters. Cockroach allergen mitigation can be achieved with IPM. Class duration: 2.5 days.

- Study domestic and peridomestic cockroach species and how to control them as well as rodent, small fly, filth fly, fire ant and nuisance ant management.
- Review the labels of commonly used GHP products, practice pest inspections at PMU's house and develop treatment strategies focused on IPM.
- Do a vehicle inspection and spill drill with Paul Mitola from DACS.

**Date: May 29-31, 2013; W-F**

**Registration Deadline: May 24, Friday**

**Place: UF/IFAS Apopka MREC**

**Time: 8 AM-5 PM (W, TH); 8 AM-12 PM (F)**

**Cost: \$350**

[Register here](#)

## **JUNE OFFERING**

### **Bed Bug Management 102**

This intensive course in bed bug management covers non-chemical and chemical methods of control, including a brief overview of fumigation. Learn about bed bug biology and behavior in relation to resistance management. Practice inspection techniques at PMU's house and observe a canine inspection.

**Date: June 28, 2013; Friday**

**Registration Deadline: June 21, Friday**

**Place: UF/IFAS Apopka MREC**

**Time: 8 AM-5 PM**

**Cost: \$150**

[Register here](#)

## News!



We hope you will submit news items and would be happy to help you write a story if you have an idea but don't have the time to write up the information. We like to share news and video when it happens using our social media outlets- **Twitter, Facebook** and **YouTube**. When you send news we will post it on one or more of these sites and again in the monthly newsletter. Feel free to send news or announcements as soon as they happen and we will post them. We hope this will get you more visibility. Please send news items to **Michael Bentley**.

Visit our website for back issues of **Florida School IPM News**. You can scan the QR code on the right with your smart phone or tablet to get there faster. You will need a QR code reader!