

# MODULE ONE

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## BED BUGS: HISTORY, RESURGENCE AND HEALTH CONCERNS

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

CITY OF ABILENE



# The History of Bed Bugs in the United States



**Common problem in the U.S. up through the World War II era.**

**Virtually eliminated with the wide-scale usage of pesticides (DDT, Malathion).**

**Re-emerged as a pest in the late 1990s.**

# WHY THE RESURGENCE?

No one knows for sure.

Possibilities Include:

- Increased Resistance to Available Pesticides
- Greater International and Domestic Travel
- Lack of Knowledge Regarding Control





- **Continuing decline or elimination of effective vector/pest control programs at state and local public health agencies**
- **Lack of public awareness**

# Bed Bugs Can be Found Anywhere:

- Houses
- Apartments
- Group Living Situations
- Hospitals
- Hotels/Motels
- Public Transportation Vehicles

## Their Usual Hiding Places Are:

- Seams of Mattresses
- Box Springs
- Bed Frames
- Along or Behind Headboards
- Behind Baseboards
- Cracks and Crevices in Furniture, Floors, and Walls
- Under Cluttered Areas
- Electronic Appliances



# An Infestation is Apparent by Noticing:

- Black or Brown Spots on Surfaces
- Eggs
- Egg Shells
- Exoskeletons

