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ed bugs are back with a vengeance and Denver is one of the top ten infested cities

reported! Bed bugs don't care if you drive a Porsche or a Pinto. Bring home bed bugs, and you get more than you bargained for: infestations, perhaps thousands of dollars in extermination fees, loss of property, isolation and anxiety.

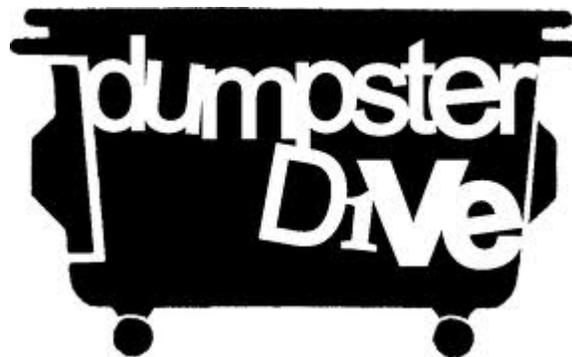
Follow these tips to help avoid infesting your belongings and home.

→Carefully inspect the item(s) that you are interested in purchasing. Pay particular attention



to bed frames, mattresses, end tables, dressers, upholstered furniture, clothing, shoes, stuffed animals, mirrors and picture frames. Check corners and crevices of furniture for signs of bed bug activity.

→No dumpster diving! If it's in a dumpster



or garbage can: leave it there. Even if it's the PERFECT plant stand, the previous owner may have thrown it away because it is infested with bed bugs.

TIPS FOR SHOPPING

AT THRIFT STORES AND GARAGE SALES

→Take any treasures home in plastic bags that seal. Even a tightly tied plastic grocery or garbage bag is better than nothing, and put the bags in your car's trunk. If you buy furniture: inspect it carefully.

→Don't remove your \$5 designer dress from the plastic bag until you're ready to treat it. There are several options for treatment: (1) put it in the washer on HOT (120°≥F) and the drier on HIGH setting for 30 minutes; (2) dry clean; or (3) use a commercially available product that uses dry heat to treat clothing and other belongings in a closed case.

→If you think you see evidence of bed bugs in the store, tell the proprietor and leave. When you get home, treat everything you were wearing as above.

If home treatment is necessary, use a licensed pest management professional. Nothing that you can buy over the counter is effective at killing bed bugs.

What's a bed bug? Bed bugs are

wingless insects that feed on blood. They prefer human blood, but



will also feed on animals. Bed bugs are being seen more and more in apartments, hotels, homes, schools, hospitals, and dormitories. They crawl very fast, and can hide in clothing, second-hand furniture, suitcases, and boxes.

For more information, see

- Bat Bugs, Bed Bugs and Relatives, W. S. Cranshaw, M. Camper and F. B. Peairs, CSU Extension, www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/insect/05574.html
- coloradoipmcenter.agsci.colostate.edu/
- www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm

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