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Should a Rent to Own

Experts Warn of Bed Bug Issues in College Dorms

11-10-08

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“ Every semester students arrive at dormitories from all over the world, and it's inevitable that some of them will bring bed bugs with them when they arrive. ”

Besides bringing home their dirty laundry and a revised list of "back-to-school" items, experts warn that students returning home for Thanksgiving may also arrive with bed bugs. According to entomologist Richard Cooper (BedBugCentral.com), colleges and universities all over the country are battling a virtual bed bug epidemic and dormitories are the perfect setting for these pests to feed and breed. [Listen to an informative bed-bug podcast interview with Richard Cooper.](#)

"Every semester students arrive at dormitories from all over the world, and it's inevitable that some of them will bring bed bugs with them when they arrive," Cooper said. "Once introduced, the stage is set for the bed bugs to spread throughout rooms and dormitories because students are living in close quarters and visit other dorm rooms regularly. Also, bringing used or second-hand furniture into dorm rooms and fraternity and sorority houses can introduce bed bugs. All of these factors combine to make the perfect storm for bed bugs to flourish."

Until recently, bed bugs were more likely to be introduced by students from abroad. But with a growing number of American homes infested, the bugs are now as likely as not to come from middle-class homes throughout the United States.

In recent years, the problem of bed bugs in college dorms has become anything but isolated. Research conducted by the National Pest Management Association (NPMA) finds that

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bed bug reports have increased 71 percent between 2001 and 2005. This fall, SUNY Potsdam (one of the State University of New York's 64 geographically dispersed campuses and home to about 3,500 undergraduates) sounded the alarm when bed bugs were discovered in one of its dorms. Workers at Ohio State University had to treat 114 rooms after bed bugs were discovered in one of its dormitories.

Other schools experiencing severe infestations include the University of Florida, Texas A&M, UC Berkeley and Columbia University, where some freshmen were evacuated from their rooms for housing services to fumigate.

Adult bed bugs resemble an apple seed in appearance. And while adult bed bugs are about one-fifth of an inch in length and visible to the naked eye, bed bug nymphs are only 1/32 inch long, translucent and very hard to spot.

Bed bugs are nocturnal and feed strictly on blood. Although they do not transmit diseases, they can cause itchy welts with their bites. Waking up with small, red welts is one tell-tale sign. Another is spotting tiny black or reddish-brown spots on your sheets.

Experts say that students should check the mattresses in their dorm rooms for signs of bed bugs, by looking in the folds and seams of their mattresses. Bed bugs can also be spotted by the black fecal material they leave behind. In addition to inspecting the mattress, the box spring and areas around them, students should also look at the headboard and the bed frame itself. Dorm residents who detect signs of an infestation, or wake up with welts, should notify a resident advisor and ask to be moved to an alternate room that is not adjacent to the suspected infested room.

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| Blu-ray Win Doesn't Solve Basic Consumer Issues |
| Older, White Households More Digital-Ready than Younger, Black and Hispanic Households |
| Rate of Business Openings In Rural Versus Urban Areas Nearly Equal |
| The R Word; Consumer Confidence Drops On Recession Fears |
| Consumer Spending Intentions Drop; Nearly half expect to spend less in February |
| Sony Tops U.S. LCD Shipments For First Time |
| Report: Weakness Forecasted For Consumer Spending On Furniture, Appliance, Electronics |
| Poll: Small Business Economic Confidence Falls to 18-Month Low |
| Poll: Print Inserts Pass TV Ads In Influence; Consumer Purchasing intent Lowest Since 9-11 |
| Fortune Poll Shows 48 |

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| Percent of Americans Spending Less Than 12 Months Ago |
| Retailers To Bush, Congress - Act Quickly on Economic Stimulus |
| Study Finds Retail Winners Keep Price Central To Overall Strategy |
| Lower Consumer Spending Threatens Retail Margins |
| Economic Concerns Cause Pullback In Consumer Spending |
| 17,000 To Attend National Retail Federation Convention Next Week |
| Comscore Releases Final Online Holiday Shopping Results; Up 19 Percent Versus Year Ago |
| Balancing Customers' Privacy With Government Demands For Information |
| Small Business Owners Cautious on Economic Outlook |
| Consumer Confidence Up In December; Experts Remain Wary |
| Nevada Is Fastest Growing State; Louisiana Rebounds |
| S&P; Retailers With Strong Price-Value Propositions Will Win This Season |
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| Full HD To Net 58% Of LCD TV Market In 2008; 40 Inch Plus Prices to Stabilize |
| Prices Stable But Retail Growth In Consumer Electronics Less Than Half Of 2006 |
| Notebook Retail Prices Decline 14% Since September 2006; Accessory Sales Buoy Margins |
| Fuels Costs Continue To Drive Down Low and Middle Income Consumer Spending |
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| Brick & Mortar 2007 Black Friday Report Brick And Mortar Stores Report Four Percent Drop in Average Black Friday Purchase |
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| There's Money In Smartphones; U.S. Smartphone Sales Jump 163% |
| Most Retailers Wireless Networks Unsecured |
| Wal-Mart Adds To LCD Pricing Pressure; Cuts 32" and 42" Models By 30% |
| Fitch: Weaker 2008 for U.S. Retail Will Force Back to Basics Strategy |
| Thanksgiving Trivia |
| Panasonic Plasma Has Lowest Repair Rate of All Flat Panels; Rear Projection Repair Rate Six Times Higher Than Flat panel |
| Gas Prices Impacting Consumer Spending; Survey Shows Future Spending Plans Decline |
| Retailers Twitchy As Black Friday Looms and Wal-Mart Hawks 50" Plasma Under \$1,000 |
| Small Business Owner Confidence Continues Decline |
| Wal-Mart Jumps The Black Friday Gun; Will Reduce Pricing Three Weeks Early |
| Consumers Will Shop Later, Spend Less This Holiday |
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| Website Review; Rental Revolution; Radio Rentals Launches New Website |
| Consumers To Delay Holiday Shopping; Fewer Plan To Purchase Electronics According To New Survey |
| Excellence of Execution is Top Concern for CEOs; Sustained and Steady Top-Line Growth Drops to Second |
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| HDTV Picture Quality Drives Sales; Consumers Less Enthusiastic About Programming Options |
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