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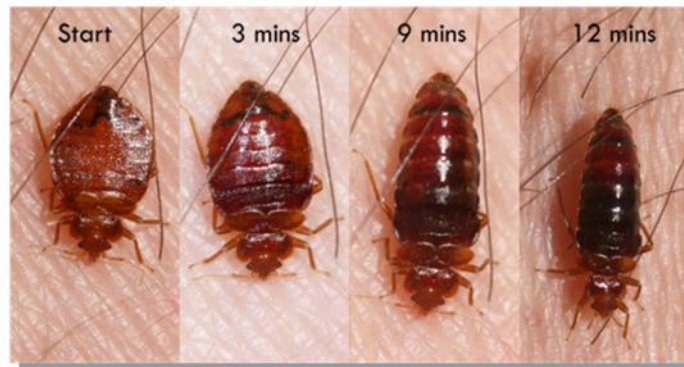
PLANT PEST & DISEASES
17-19 NOVEMBER 2014 PRETORIA

All about bed bug eggs

They're hard to find and difficult to kill touching each other.

A newly emerged female bed bug will feed on blood, then mate, and then start laying eggs 3 to 6 days later. Under perfect conditions, she can lay about 3 eggs a day, but under more typical conditions in a bedroom, she will likely lay less, 5-7 eggs per week. During her lifetime she may lay from 200-500 viable eggs.

Are those Eggs dead or Alive? If you have viable (capable of hatching) eggs, you have an active bed bug infestation, or at least the potential for active bed bugs once they hatch. But how do you tell if the eggs are viable, dead, or were viable and have already hatched? There are certain indications of egg health. Viable eggs are white, plump, and health-looking, not dried out or shrivelled looking.



The eggs are small (1mm), translucent white, and difficult to see, especially when they are located inside cracks, crevices, or holes, or laid on light-coloured surfaces. They are covered with a sticky substance that acts like a cement, attaching them to the surface.

Females prefer to lay their eggs onto textured surfaces like fabrics, wood, or behind pictures, in furniture, along the edges of baseboards, under floor boards, and in similar sites. Most eggs are laid close to the female's harbourage site, but since females often wander, isolated eggs can be found far from the bed. These isolated eggs are very hard to find, hidden inside a screw slot, fabric seam, or under the edge of a little chip of paint. Eggs are laid individually or in clumps. Sometimes the eggs of different females may be

They are entire, with the cap still attached. Two or three days before hatching, two bright red spots (eyes) will appear inside near the cap end of the viable egg. A bed bug egg that has already hatched will have the top, cap end opened and no embryo inside. Eggs hatch in 7-10 days at room temperature.

One of the biggest problems in bed bug control is the failure of most insecticides to affect bed bug eggs. It is common for eggs to hatch after treatment. Heat and steam treatments, along with fumigation will kill bed bug eggs when properly applied. Always remember to treat the entire room including the base or frame of the bed as well as the mattress. Bed bugs notoriously hide in cracks, behind hanging pictures and even roof comices. Treat the entire room thoroughly.

**WOOD PRESERVATION OF UTILITY
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**OUR COURSES ARE AGRISETA
ACCREDITED AND ACCEPTED
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AS A PEST CONTROL
OPERATOR**

**AGRISETA & SAQA
REGISTRATION NO: AGRI/c
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FET REGISTRATION NO: 2012/
FE07/001**

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