

# Bed Bug Resistant Furniture

Remember No "type" of furniture is immune to the risks of bed bugs, but with proper product choices you can reduce the risk of them.

Furniture is an obvious concern since beds and seating offer a hospitable environment for bed bugs. So what can you do when purchasing new furniture to help minimize the risk of encouraging bed bugs?

Here is a little insight on the strengths of 3 popular types of furniture solutions:

**1. WOOD:** Wood is not an attractant to bed bugs; rather the porous nature of unfinished or roughly finished areas can offer bed bug hiding places. The more smooth and scratch resistant the furniture finish on all areas of the furniture, the more inherently bed bug resistant a piece is. A well-lacquered piece of solid wood furniture can work well in a bed bug management plan.



**2. METAL:** Metal beds and case pieces have become a popular option for facilities with a high risk of bed bugs like transient housing. Metal, like finished wood, resists bed bugs due to its smooth finish but still has joints, bends and weld points that can offer bed bugs safe harbor. An advantage of metal is that it resists chemical damage and can be "washed" clean after bed bug treatments.

**3. MOLDED PLASTIC:** Thermoplastic injection molded furniture is a single piece construction. Molded plastic offers a smooth surface that resists bed bugs. There are fewer joints than wood or metal furniture but there is still surface area on the underside of the furniture that can be a nesting area for bed bugs. Again, plastic can be “washed” after chemical treatments.



Bed bugs are incredibly small, nimble, and quick to hide. Furniture with smooth, non-porous surfaces deter bed bug movement since the bed bugs cannot get the traction required to crawl. *Metal, molded plastic, and lacquered wood are all good options.*

Joints will still exist on most furniture but clear silicone caulk can easily fill those favorite hiding spots.

If professional pest treatment becomes necessary smooth surface furniture offers the additional feature of being easily cleanable after chemical treatments. Molded plastic and metal furniture in particular are easy to wash with water and mild detergent.



**Mattresses** can also be part of the bed bug arsenal when made with non-porous mattress covers like coated nylon or vinyl made with inverted seams. The cover deters nesting and the inverted seam minimizes hiding places. While there is no furniture or mattresses that are completely resistant to bed bugs but there are ways to make furniture more resistant.

Bed bugs can cause your organization plenty of headaches. Investing in bed bug resistant furniture is a big step toward fighting off these pests and keeping your rooms safe.