

Paris Battles Bedbug Infestation Ahead Of 2024 Olympics

Why In The News?

- **Paris Is In A Battle Against Bedbugs.** Officials Are Working To Tamp Down The Problem After Numerous Reported Sightings Around The French Capital. Videos On Social Media Appear To Show The **Insects, Which Feed On The Blood Of Humans And Animals,** Crawling Around Everywhere In Paris.
- The City Is Preparing For The **2024 Paris Olympics** French Health Agency Said In July That A Survey Found **11% Of Households In The Country** Had Been Infested From 2017 To 2022.

The New York Times



City of Light or City of Bites? France Tries to Ease Bedbug Anxiety.



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What Might Be The Reason Behind The Bedbugs?

- It's Difficult To Say. Many Have Attributed Bedbugs To The Spurt In Travel. **Bedbugs Are Not Linked To Hygiene Issues** But Because Of Their Size Can Attach Themselves Unspotted In Clothes And Other Everyday Objects.
- Some Experts Believe It Is **Not An Unusual Phenomenon** Exactly, But The Scale May Be Bigger This Time. The Report Added That For Two Or Three Decades Now, **Bedbugs Have Been Making A Return In Countries Like The UK And France** - Partly Why There Has Been A Frenzy About Their Presence Now.

- In These Countries, Historically, **Pesticides Like DDT** Kept Bedbugs Away For Many Decades. However, The Environmental Impact Of Such Chemicals Led To A Fall In Their Use And The Re-Emergence Of These Insects. Consequently. The Ones Appearing Now Might Be **More Resistant To Anti-bug Chemicals**.
- Finally, The Report Says That **A Decline In Cockroaches** Who Are Predators Of Bedbugs Might Be Another Possible Reason. Also, With The **Next Olympic Games Set To Be Held In Paris Next Year** And The Paris Fashion Week Just Concluded On October 3, The High Influx Of Tourists Is Cause For Worry.



How Do Bedbugs Impact?

- Bedbugs Cause Itching And Inflammation Through Their Bites. A Report In The Conversation Said That The Most Common Bite Reactions Are **Itchy Red Spots** At Feeding Sites That Usually Go Away In A Week Or So.
- But Some People Have Complex Skin Reactions, Including **Hives And Blisters**, Or **Allergic Responses**. Extreme Infestations Can, In Rare Cases, Lead To Blood Loss Severe Enough To Cause Anaemia, It Said.
- If An Infestation Is Confirmed, Technicians Move In To Zap The Area With Super-Hot Steam. **Heat And Cold Are Enemies Of Bedbugs**. Extermination Companies Are Also Being Called In By People. As A Precaution, Some People Are Now Keeping Their Clothes In Freezers After Returning Home.