



**INSTALLATION AND  
USAGE OF THE  
BB ALERT® ACTIVE  
BED BUG MONITOR**

**MIDMOS**

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# BED BUGS

Bed Bugs are small, secretive, normally nocturnal insects that feed on blood. They spend most of their time hidden in tiny cracks and spaces close to where their host rests, and usually only venture out to feed when it is dark and quiet. Their small size, secretive behavior, and preferred harborage make them the perfect hitchhiker, and one of the easiest pest insects to inadvertently transport between locations on personal belongings and furniture.

Initial infestations of Bed Bugs usually consist of just a few insects, sometimes only one female or even a few eggs, and at this stage the problem is rarely detected. However, most modern buildings provide everything needed for Bed Bugs to thrive. They contain numerous safe places to hide with no natural predators, ample food provided by the human hosts, and controlled temperatures close to optimal for their development. Under these conditions a small Bed Bug population can rapidly grow to a significant size.

Given everything they need, Bed Bugs are prolific. Females start to produce eggs only 3 days after mating, lay between 3 and 5 eggs each day, and each female may scatter up to 500 eggs in the local environment during her life. The eggs hatch in about a week, and the young Bed Bug that emerges will pass through five developmental stages in one to two months, each requiring at least one blood meal. The male and female adults also feed on blood, and the females require at least one blood meal in order to produce eggs. Under these conditions, just a few Bed Bugs can develop into a population of several thousand over a period of 6 months.

The available resources will become limited as the Bed Bug population grows. Even though Bed Bugs may take between 5 and 8 times their body weight in blood at each feed, the first resource to become stressed is usually the availability of suitable hiding places near to the host. This causes the population to spread through the structure, and even migrate to connected or adjacent buildings. If the Bed Bug population grows large enough they may even be found living outside cracks in plain view, and have been found to feed on household pets and even chickens if their food supply becomes limited.

The BB ALERT® Bed Bug monitors are scientifically designed to exploit the Bed Bug's natural behavior. The BB ALERT® ACTIVE Bed Bug monitor and detector simulates clues that Bed Bugs use to find their host, and will attract both adult and immature Bed Bugs in search of the blood meals they require. The BB ALERT® PASSIVE monitor (also available from Midmos Solutions) provides the ideal secure harborage Bed Bugs prefer, and is very attractive to Bed Bugs when placed close to the potential host's resting site. When used as part of a Bed Bug monitoring program, the BB ALERT® products can provide early evidence of Bed Bug activity while the population is still small and contained, a factor critical to minimizing the extent, disruption, and cost of remedial treatment.



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# BB ALERT® ACTIVE

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BB ALERT® ACTIVE is a Bed Bug detector that is designed to be actively attractive to Bed Bugs.

Bed Bugs in all stages of their development feed exclusively on the blood of warm blooded animals (usually people), and they use a number of “clues” to help locate their meals. BB ALERT® ACTIVE monitor simulates the warmth from respiration that Bed Bugs use as indicators to find their hosts.

The BB ALERT® ACTIVE replaceable activator is supplied in a sealed package. When opened and exposed to the air it starts to generate heat, which mimics the signs of animal respiration that trigger a feeding response in Bed Bugs. The activator is placed inside the BB ALERT® ACTIVE monitor’s base and enclosed by the insulated top cover.

When in place, the insulated top cover leaves a specifically designed gap around the unit’s base. This restricts the flow of air, creating a micro-climate within the device and a controlled flow of heat to the outside. This temperature gradient leads the Bed Bug into the monitor.

Around the base of the BB ALERT® ACTIVE monitor are rows of small spikes. These mimic the hairs typically found on mammals, and provide discretion for the unit’s contents. Inside the base of the unit is the insect detection surface. Years of field trials with “live” Bed Bug infestations have demonstrated that BB ALERT® ACTIVE will attract large numbers of adolescent as well as adult Bed Bugs.

BB ALERT® ACTIVE monitor provides a revolutionary, new attractant unit that can be used as a stand-alone monitor or to support early detection and control programs. Daily use during control treatments will provide an effective monitor of treatment progress, and provide confirmation when control is achieved.

BB ALERT® ACTIVE is small, discreet, inexpensive, and contains no pesticides.



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# USING BB ALERT® ACTIVE

Bed Bugs are very active insects when searching for a blood meal, and will follow the respiratory clues to the host quite rapidly. The BB ALERT® ACTIVE monitor includes a special activator sachet that begins to mimic these clues as soon as it is exposed to the air. This means the BB ALERT® ACTIVE unit must be prepared for each use.

## Preparing BB ALERT® ACTIVE for Use

To maximize their effectiveness, the environmental mimics released by the BB ALERT® ACTIVE monitor need to be present during the period when Bed Bugs are most likely to be actively seeking a blood meal. Bed Bugs may feed at any time, but most will feed when it is very dark and quiet, usually from late evening through the early hours of the morning. It is therefore recommended that the BB ALERT® ACTIVE is used overnight, starting between 6 and 9 o'clock in the evening. As the activator sachet works for about twelve hours, you should only prepare the BB ALERT® ACTIVE monitor immediately before use.

## Preparing BB ALERT® ACTIVE for Use



To open the monitor, lift gently on the insulated cover while holding the base, and remove any protective cardboard packaging. The BB ALERT® ACTIVE activators are packaged in pairs, but are only used one at a time. Remove one of the activator sachets from its protective plastic wrapper and place it in the center of the BB ALERT® ACTIVE monitor's base, and then replace the insulated cover. The BB ALERT® ACTIVE monitor is now ready for use.

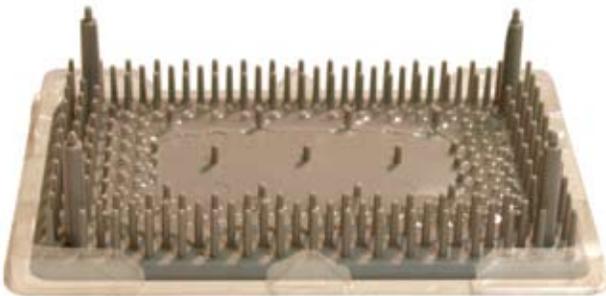
### Using the BB ALERT® ACTIVE monitor on Carpeted Surfaces

Use the supplied BB ALERT® ACTIVE carpet base to secure the monitor when it is used on carpeted surfaces. When using the carpet base, you should position the carpet base and attach the base of the monitor to it before you install the activator sachet and insulated cover.

The carpet base has an adhesive pad on both the upper and lower sides. To install the BB ALERT® ACTIVE monitor with the carpet base, remove the paper cover from the lower adhesive pad first and position the carpet base onto the carpet where the monitor is to be installed, then remove the paper cover from the upper adhesive pad.



The base of the BB ALERT® ACTIVE monitor is then placed over the carpet base and attached by gently pressing the corners until they snap into place.



### Placement of BB ALERT® ACTIVE

The BB ALERT® ACTIVE monitor should be placed as close to the bed (the normal feeding site) as is practical. It should be placed where it will not be disturbed, such as on the floor next to one of the bed legs, preferably at the head end of the bed.

### Inspecting BB ALERT® ACTIVE

To inspect the BB ALERT® ACTIVE monitor, remove the insulated cover and the activator sachet, and lift the monitor base from the carpet base (when used on carpeted surfaces). The spent activator sachet is harmless and may be placed in the household trash. Bed Bugs detected by the BB ALERT® ACTIVE monitor will be seen on the insect monitoring surface just inside the edge of the base, and on the insect monitoring surface on the top of the carpet base (when used on carpeted surfaces). All Bed Bug stages feed on blood, so the BB ALERT® ACTIVE monitor may contain both adult and nymph Bed Bugs.

## PESTICIDE APPLICATION

Bed Bugs require a blood meal about every 3-5 days. This means that you should use the BB ALERT® ACTIVE monitor for two nights over a three or five day period to optimize the results (for example, monitoring on Tuesday and Thursday nights). Of course, you may obtain evidence of Bed Bugs on the first night (particularly with a large Bed Bug population), but a two day schedule has been shown to provide the most accurate detection. You may continue to use the same BB ALERT® ACTIVE monitor throughout the period (using a fresh activator sachet each night), unless the insect detection surfaces become heavily congested with insects.

The frequency of monitoring will depend on the sensitivity of the location and the potential for Bed Bugs to enter the structure. For high incidence locations and sensitive structures it is recommended that a two day monitoring is performed every month.



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# CONFIRMING BED BUG ELIMINATION

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Having a Bed Bug problem is distressing and, however thoroughly treatment is performed, there is often the fear that a Bed Bug elimination program has somehow failed to find every last insect.

The BB ALERT® products offer a cost effective method to provide reassurance that the property is Bed Bug free after treatment, and to then continuously protect the premises against the undetected re-establishment of Bed Bug populations.

The BB ALERT® ACTIVE Bed Bug monitor is designed to attract Bed Bugs that are seeking a blood meal, and can provide visual feed-back on the progress of a Bed Bug elimination program as well as confirmation of its success. Research has shown that periodic use of the BB ALERT® ACTIVE monitor in conjunction with the BB ALERT® PASSIVE monitor (also available from Midmos Solutions) provides the highest level of Bed Bug detection, and is recommended for all locations with the potential for Bed Bug problems.

## MIDMOS SOLUTIONS

Midmos Solutions manufactures monitors to attract all stages of Bed Bugs looking for a blood meal, behavioural monitors that provide the perfect harbourage for Bed Bugs after they consume a blood meal, and specialty systems to treat Bed Bug infestation without the use of pesticides. Further information on Bed Bugs and the BB ALERT® products is available from: [www.BedBugsAlert.com/manuals](http://www.BedBugsAlert.com/manuals)





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