

BED BUG RESPONSE GUIDELINES FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STAFF

Residence halls at colleges, universities, and boarding schools have sleeping quarters and shared common areas, including community showers and bathrooms, laundry rooms, lounges, kitchens, study areas and recreation rooms. Bed bugs can spread easily from resident to resident in these locations. In addition, the social activities at institutions with this type of housing create the ideal setting for the rapid and widespread distribution of bed bugs throughout numerous nearby buildings. The following information is meant to serve as guidance when responding to a bed bug complaint.



Education is Key: Provide training for critical staff members, including maintenance, custodial, site manager, and any staff member who conducts inspections on bed bug identification and prevention. Training should include the following topics: identification of bed bugs and bed bug evidence, bed bug hiding spots and the institution's bed bug response protocol. The training can be conducted by the local health department, an entomologist, or a pest management professional.

Develop a bed bug action plan in advance to address bed bug infestations. Include strategies for dealing with the following issues:

- Encouraging residents to report suspected bed bug activity
- Responding to reports of suspected bed bug activity
- Managing the spread of bed bugs
- Eliminating known infestations
- Determining whether students will be present during inspections
- Responding to requests for relocation
- Responding to the media
- Responding to parents' concern
- Laundering infested items



Inspection and Prevention

Bed bugs hide close to where people sleep. They are excellent hitchhikers and are easily spread by moving beds, furniture, luggage, clothes, or other possessions from one location to another.

- Inspect rooms between semesters or during spring or winter breaks. Consider utilizing a bed bug detection dog for faster and more accurate inspections.
- Look for live bed bugs, eggs, cast skins, and blood or fecal spots.
- Purchase furniture that is less bed bug friendly. Bed bugs prefer fabric, wood and paper surfaces over metal or plastic.
- Frequently inspect common areas for signs of a bed bug infestation.
- Seal or caulk cracks and crevices along baseboards, moldings, and around heating and A/C units. Seal openings around pipe chases and conduits.
- Repair holes and other damage in walls.
- Repair peeling wallpaper and peeling paint. Fix other damage that may provide hiding places for bed bugs.
- Bag, seal, and discard belongings and debris left behind by residents who have moved out.

Bed Bug Hiding Spots

1. Mattresses	5. Edges of carpeting
2. Box springs	6. Corners inside dressers
3. Bed frames	7. Cracks in wallpaper
4. Curtains	8. Upholstered furniture



Signs of an Infestation

Live bed bugs, skin casts, eggs, feces, blood smears, and bites



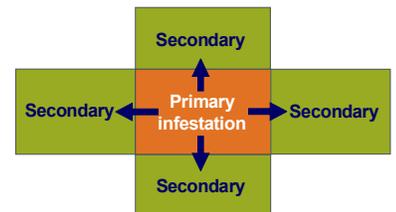
Hiding Places: feces and bed bugs found around electrical outlets, cove base, mattresses, and under wallpaper



Managing an Infestation

If a bed bug complaint is received, even if it is not confirmed, arrange for a professional inspection to be conducted as quickly as possible. It is easier and quicker to eliminate a bed bug infestation in its early stage. Immediately schedule treatment of all areas where bed bugs have been confirmed. In addition to any recommendations from the pest management professional, follow these guidelines:

- Attempt to collect a specimen in a zippered plastic bag using a tissue or a piece of gauze without crushing the bug to provide to the local health department or the pest management professional for identification.
- Inspect all adjacent rooms above, below, across the hall, and on both sides of the infested room.
- Determine where the utility lines are installed and the directions they run and evaluate if the lines correlate with the spread of infestation.
- Encase an infested mattress and box spring in a zippered cover that is labeled and certified “bed bug proof.” Leave cover on for at least a full year.
- Every room that has been treated for bed bugs should be rescheduled for inspections and treated as necessary until successful control has been confirmed. NOTE: In the state of Ohio, The Ohio Department of Agriculture requires pesticide treatments on college and other school property to be conducted by a licensed pesticide applicator.
- Interview the residents in the affected rooms to determine other rooms or areas that they visit regularly which may also be infested.
- Respond sympathetically to people making bed bug complaints and take their complaints seriously.



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