



Department of Commerce

Division of State Fire Marshal

The Role of the State Fire Marshal in Bed Bug Infestation Control



Division of State Fire Marshal

Presented by

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Introduction

- Why is the SFM involved?
- The Fire Marshal's Statutory Authority.
- How serious is the problem in the buildings we inspect?
- Some examples of conditions we encounter.
- How do you get rid of Bed Bugs?
- What action does the SFM take?
- Bad Ideas!





Why Is The State Fire Marshal Involved with Bed Bugs?

The State of Ohio, specifically the State Fire Marshal, licenses hotels and is also charged with the inspection of nursing homes in the state under the provisions of the Ohio Fire Code and the Ohio Revised Code.





The State Fire Marshal's Statutory Authority

The Ohio Fire Code:

Chapter 1, Section 101.4.4: Fire Prevention. The provisions of the Ohio Fire Code (Chapters 1301:7-1 to 1301:7-7 of the Administrative Code) shall apply to the preventive measures which provide for fire-safe conduct and operations in buildings and includes maintenance of fire detection, fire alarm, and fire extinguishing equipment and systems, exit facilities, opening protectives, safety devices, **good housekeeping practices**, and fire drills.





The State Fire Marshal's Statutory Authority

The Ohio Revised Code:

Chapter 3731.13 All bedding used in any hotel must be thoroughly aired, disinfected, and kept clean. **No bedding which is infested with vermin or bedbugs shall be used on any bed in any hotel.** All floors, carpets, and equipment in hotels, and all walls and ceilings shall be kept in sanitary condition.





How Serious is the Problem in the Buildings We Inspect?

- Number of complaints or infestations discovered during routine inspections each year: 300 to 400.
- Unfounded cases: About half.
- We are not seeing an epidemic.
- We ARE seeing an increase in cases.
- If you are one of those who is affected, it is serious to YOU; and it is taken seriously by the State Fire Marshal.





Bed Bugs!





Bed Bugs!





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Getting Rid Of Bed Bugs

Leave extermination to the professionals:



Working with a licensed pest management professional is the best way to eradicate an infestation. Speak with a professional to learn what type of treatment would be best for you, which might include heat treatment and/or Integrated Pest Management. (Integrated Pest Management means using a combination of pesticide and non-pesticide options to treat the entire infestation.)





SFM Enforcement Actions

- Usually grant 7 days to abate the condition.
- If not corrected:
- Issue a Citation or Notice of Violation under the provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 3737.42 or
- Pursue a revocation of the Hotel License under the provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 3731.06





SFM Enforcement Actions

Very few cases ever get to a hearing because the overwhelming majority of owners or operators are more than happy to get rid of these critters!





Bad Ideas





Bad Ideas





Bad Ideas





Bad Ideas





Bad Ideas





Bad Ideas





More Information

centralohiobedbugs.org



Questions?

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