

**BED BUG PRECAUTIONS FOR  
SOCIAL WORKERS/HOME  
VISITORS**

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# FIRST EMAIL ABOUT BED BUGS

**August 2010**

**To Health Department colleague,**

**I received a referral from ... regarding 132XX XXXXX – a severe case of bed bugs... can you please make a visit and get back to me. What does the Health Dept do for bed bugs? If the client is a tenant.... Does the owner get cited ? I thought it was more of a personal hygiene issue?**

**Co-worker, Aging**



## DECEMBER 2010

Jane,

XXX from XXX told one of his caseworkers to call here for some possible ideas about bedbugs for a client in Ward X. Wondered if I am missing anything.

84 year old female. Hoarding and Bed Bugs. No family. Has not talked to her daughter in 3 years.

If she does not clean her apartment in 30 days—XXX says she will be evicted.

Very fixed income.

I don't have a resource. Am I missing anything?

Mary

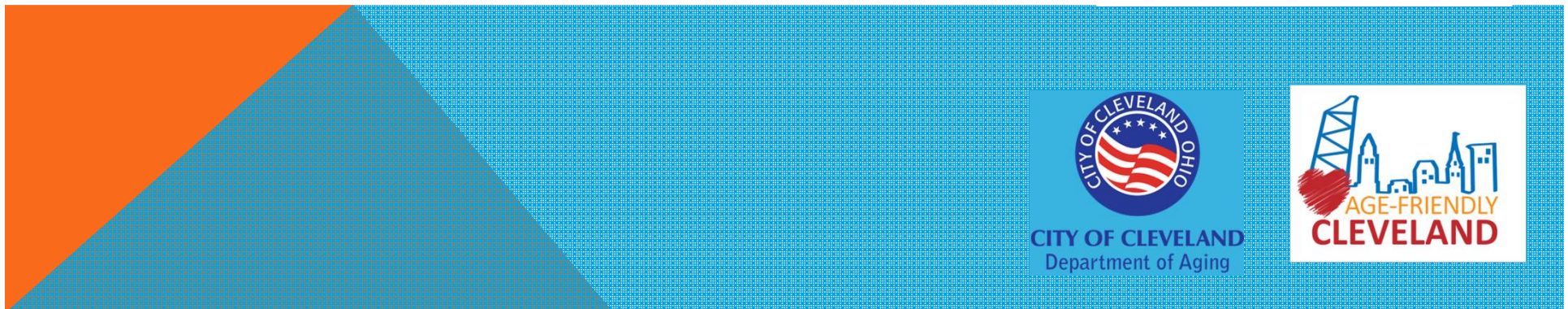


# PREVENTION BEGINS WITH EDUCATION



Healthy Cleveland:  
Bed Bugs

📅 August 30, 2019



MY TOP TEN LIST

# How to co- exist with bed bugs in the workplace



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## 10. BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY A BED BUG

Require all staff who go into homes to have some training in bed bugs.

<https://www.cuyahogabedbugs.org/2017-conference-archives/>

Ohio State University Phone App- Bed Bug Field Guide. Free.

EduTechnologic



## 9. KNOW THE SIGNS OF BED BUG HABITATION

Blood stains on pillows

Dark or rusty spots of bedbug excrement on sheets and mattresses, bed clothes, and walls.

Bedbug fecal spots, egg shells, or shed skins in areas where bedbugs hide



## 8. DON'T LET DOWN YOUR GUARD IN A TIDY HOME

Bed Bugs do not prefer filthy environments.

Bed Bugs are attracted to body heat/carbon dioxide





## 7. ASK IF THEY HAVE HAD AN INFESTATION

Reduce the stigma and bring up the topic of bed bugs

On intake or prior to your first home visit with a client, ask if he or she has had any known infestation or treatments for any pests, including bed bugs.

Inform the client that the steps you are taking ( booties, bringing a stool, etc.) help protect against potentially having insects transported into the client's home.



## 6. PACK LIGHTLY

**Bring only necessary items into the home**

**Fanny pack can carry personal items**

**Clipboard can be used to carry paperwork**



## 5. AVOID UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE

Avoid placing any items on upholstered furniture or bedding. This is the most common way to transfer bed bugs from an infested location

Don't sit on cloth covered furniture or bedding

Bring a stool or folding chair

Safest place to sit would be in the kitchen on a non upholstered chair



## 4. KEEP A BASIC BED BUG BIN IN YOUR CAR

Portable, hard surface chair or stool

Large plastic storage container with a sealed lid

Small bag to hold personal items like identification, cell phone, and gloves

Extra clothes and shoes (to be kept in the car)

Booties

Coveralls

Disposable gloves

Duct tape

Small plastic garbage bags

Flashlight

Wet wipes

Ziploc® bags

Plastic clipboard



### 3. DRESS AS THOUGH YOU ARE GOING TO ENCOUNTER A BED BUG

Wear less accessories including scarves and handbags

Wear clothing that will allow you to see a bed bug.

Recommend wearing protective booties in known situations, in buildings with known infestations and when you are uncertain

Another alternative is a separate pair of shoes in your car which you wear into homes with bed bug infestations. Also consider shoes that can be put in the dryer.

If known infestation, coveralls should be considered

When removing booties or coveralls, remove so that covering is turned inside out as it is taken off so as to trap any bugs. Place all protective gear in a plastic bag, seal it and dispose of it in an outdoor receptacle.



## 2. PERFORM A SELF INSPECTION

**Pay attention to inside and outside of shoes,  
lace holes, socks, leg area and around hands  
and arms**

**If you see a bug or insect, use a wet wipe to  
contain or crush the insect**

**Inspect paper on desk for any that may have  
arrived via paperwork**



# 1. NO LONGER IF, BUT WHEN I GET BED BUGS

**Check your bed frame every time  
you launder your sheets**

**Vacuum, Vacuum, Vacuum**

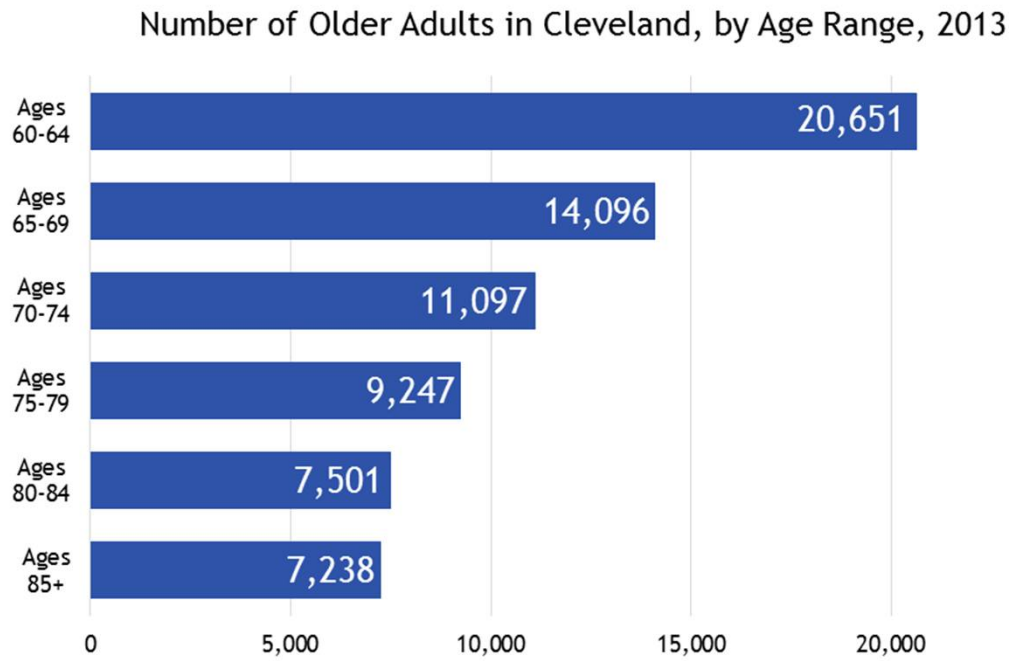
**When in doubt, put your clothes in  
the dryer upon returning home**

**Reduce the clutter in your car and  
vacuum regularly**

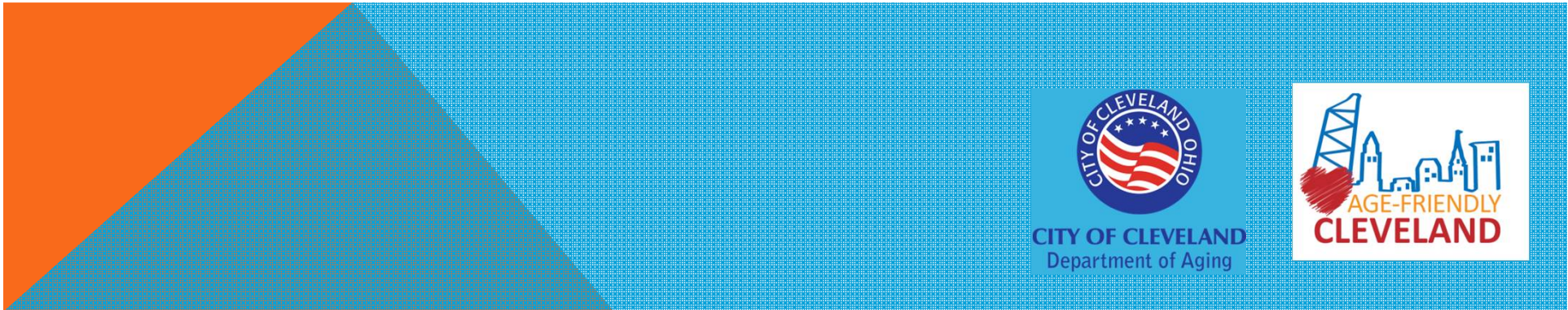
**Bring up issue in team meetings**



# 17.7 PERCENT OF CLEVELAND'S POPULATION IS AGED 60 AND OVER



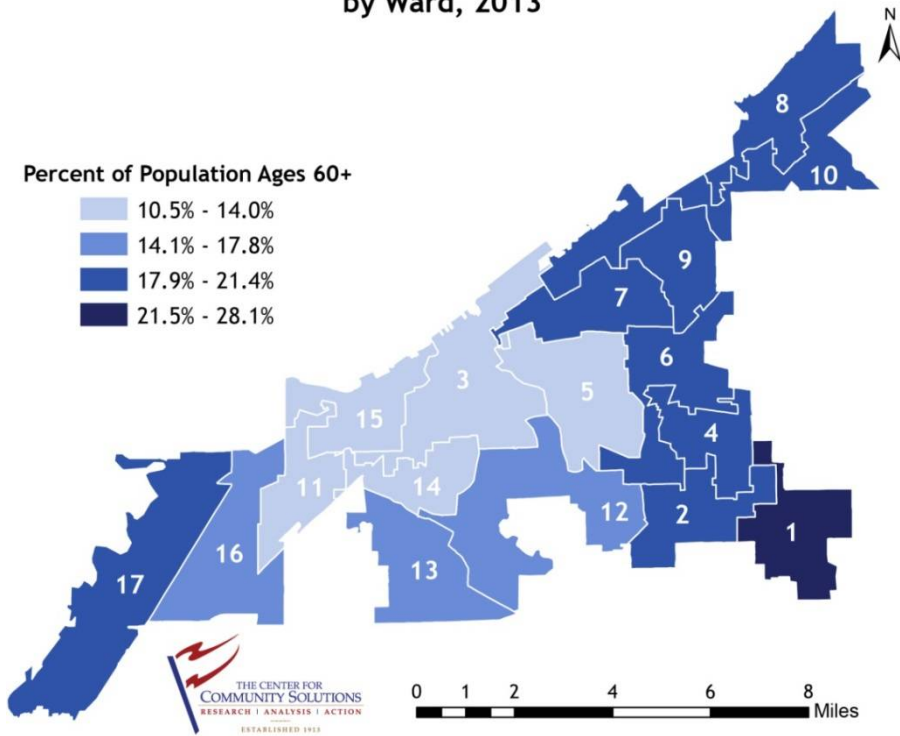
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey





# WARD 1 (LEE-MILES) HAS THE GREATEST CONCENTRATION OF OLDER ADULTS

Percent of Cleveland Population Ages 60 and Over,  
by Ward, 2013



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009-2013 5-Year Estimates



# OLDER ADULT EDUCATION

**Bedbugs can be even more problematic for older people, who may not see or feel them because of diminished eyesight or physical challenges**

**Don't buy used furniture without thorough inspection (especially bedding and upholstery)**

**Plastic covers for mattresses**

**Periodically inspecting bedding**

**Reducing clutter**



# NORMAL VISION VERSUS CATARACTS



A cataract is a painless, cloudy area in the lens of the eye. Cataracts are very common in older adults. Cataracts can also occur after an eye injury, as a result of eye disease, after the use of certain medications or as a result of medical conditions such as diabetes.



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# NORMAL VISION VS. DIABETIC RETINOPATHY



Diabetic retinopathy is an eye condition that affects people with diabetes who have high blood sugar over a prolonged period of time. In the early stages of diabetic retinopathy these blood vessels leak fluid and distort sight. If left untreated, these blood vessels may bleed, clouding vision or scar detaching the retina.



# NORMAL VISION VS. GLAUCOMA



Glaucoma is an eye condition that develops when too much fluid pressure builds up inside of the eye. Without treatment, glaucoma can cause blindness within a few years. Glaucoma is most often inherited, meaning it is passed from parents to children.



# BED BUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**City of Cleveland resident**

**Owner occupied home**

**Income eligible; Household of 1, less than \$21,857 gross income per year; household of 2, less than \$29,592 gross**

**Owner must be 60 years of age or older or an adult, 18-59 years old, receiving a disability payment.**

**[http://www.city.cleveland.oh.us/sites/default/files/forms\\_publications/AgingBedbug\\_2019-07.pdf?id=109102](http://www.city.cleveland.oh.us/sites/default/files/forms_publications/AgingBedbug_2019-07.pdf?id=109102)**



## LESSONS LEARNED

Controlling bed bugs is not simple or easy to do,  
especially in senior living complexes

They are hard to see with the best eyesight

People respond differently to bites

Making infested areas fully accessible is critical.

Older or disabled adults may need assistance.

Social stigma

Senior Initiative; multi team approach



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## OTHER TIPS

**Discourage clients from sharing their vacuum cleaner with neighbors or other residents.**

**Discourage clients from accepting clothes, furniture, or other items from friends or neighbors.**

**Keep informed about bed bugs in order to offer clients accurate bed bug information**





# TRANSPORTING CLIENTS

**While transporting a client from a bed bug infested home, take measures to protect the car used.**

- **Use large garbage bags to contain the client's personal items and to line the car seats.**
- **If the client has a wheelchair that must be transported, use large garbage bags or a small tarp to cover the wheelchair.**
- **If the infestation is high, ask the client to wear coveralls while traveling in the car.**
- **After the client and the client's belongings have been transported, vacuum the car. Wipe down the seat belts and seat seams with wet wipes to remove any bed bugs.**



## OTHER RESOURCES

- **Local Health Departments for inspection/advice**
- **Cuyahoga County Senior and Adult Services 216.420.6700**
- **Passport program 216.621.8010**



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