



SAFER PEST CONTROL PROJECT

BED BUG CHECKLIST FOR DORMITORIES AND ON-CAMPUS RESIDENCES

Early inspection and intervention is the key to keeping bed bug problems manageable and affordable. Eliminating a bed bug problem demands cooperation between residents, the pest control company, and building management. Skipping labor-intensive strategies to save money in the short term will likely result in even bigger problems, and cost you more in the long run. Pesticides alone WILL RARELY solve the problem due to bed bug resistance. Improper application of pesticides can even cause bed bugs to spread to other building areas.

Here is a checklist of strategies for preventing, eliminating, and containing the spread of bed bug infestations. There is no “magic formula” for eliminating bed bug problems - the process will take time and require patience. This is only a suggested checklist since every building is different. Hiring a pest control operator with bed bug elimination experience is recommended (see guidelines provided). If hired, always follow the pest control operator’s advice.

BE PROACTIVE

- Use good building practices and maintenance to prevent pest problems.
 - Caulk baseboards, loose tiles, chair-rail moldings, and outlets
 - Remove carpeting when possible
 - Address storage and clutter issues in common areas such as lounges

- Develop a “bed bug action plan” for your residence(s).
Include strategies for:
 - Responding to reports or complaints
 - Containing and eliminating infestations
 - Laundering infested items properly
 - Disposing of infested furniture
 - Educating and advising students
 - Managing requests for relocation
 - Responding to parents’ concerns and media attention

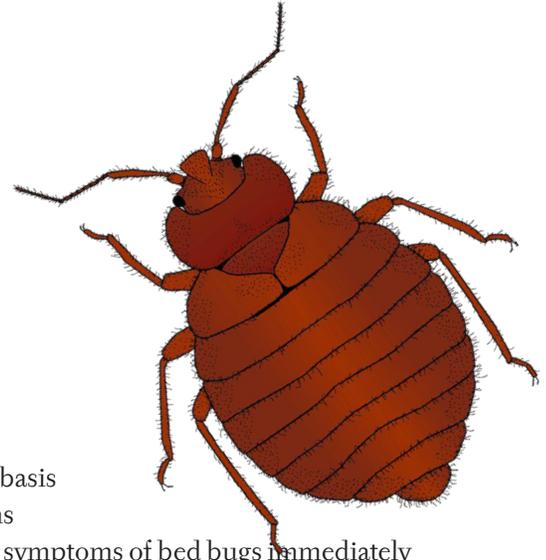
- Educate students and staff about bed bugs before they become a problem.
Provide information on:
 - The reappearance of bed bugs as a problem around the world
 - What bed bugs are and what they look like
 - How to recognize a bed bug problem
 - How to prevent the spread on college campuses
 - What is being done to reduce the likelihood of bed bug infestations
 - How to prevent bed bugs from becoming a problem (i.e., discourage use of “alley” mattresses or furniture, vacuum frequently)
 - What to do when a bed bug problem is suspected

- Consider periodically inspecting common areas and rooms before a new student moves in or between semesters, buying a steam cleaner (steam heated to at least 170°F) and training staff to operate it, or making serious repairs to the building (i.e., replacing carpeting with hard-surface flooring)



RESPONDING TO A COMPLAINT

- Respond sympathetically and avoid blame
- Arrange for a professional inspection
 - Inspect the affected room as well as all adjacent rooms (above, below, and on both sides)
 - Schedule an intervention for all rooms where bed bugs are found
- Educate students on what they can, and should, do NOW:
 - Give them a resident checklist
 - Explain how to prepare for the inspection
 - Discourage throwing away belongings and/or furniture
 - If they insist, explain how to do so properly



ONCE AN INFESTATION IS CONFIRMED

- Educate students on how to prepare for treatment
- Educate staff on their role
- Prevent the spread of the infestation by doing the following:
 - Inspect all adjacent units above, below, and on both sides on a regular basis
 - Consider buying mattress encasements for infested and adjacent rooms
 - Encourage residents in adjacent rooms to be aware and report signs or symptoms of bed bugs immediately
 - Seal and make repairs to infested and adjacent rooms
 - Caulk or seal cracks and crevices near beds such as those along baseboards, around pipe chases, or around heating and AC units
 - Repair holes and other damage in walls
 - Repair molding, peeling wall paper, chipping paint, and any other damage that may provide hiding places for bed bugs
 - Develop a system for furniture disposal
 - Paint or seal bed frames and hardwood floors
- Implement a monitoring system – reinspect and other formal follow-up

HIRING A PEST CONTROL COMPANY: DON'T THROW YOUR MONEY AWAY

To successfully eliminate bed bugs, we recommend hiring a company experienced in the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to bed bug control. Do not hire a company based on price alone. Make sure the company is qualified to do the job right the first time and avoid more headaches later. Here are some tips on how to choose a pest control company for bed bug work:

- Make sure they are licensed and insured
- Ask for and check references for bed bug work
- Insist on an IPM approach – no “spray and pray” pesticide applications
- Have them provide a detailed action plan that recommends pre-treatment preparation activities (Use SPCP factsheet “How to Hire a Pest Professional for Bed Bugs” for help)
- Beware of the lowest bidder
- Beware of any “guarantees”

Safer Pest Control Project is a not for profit organization dedicated to reducing the health risks and environmental impacts of pesticides and promoting safer alternatives in Illinois.

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