

GUIDELINES FOR THE CONTROL OF BED BUGS –TENANTS

Bed bugs have made a dramatic resurgence in recent years. Infestations have been found in hotels, hospitals, schools, multi-unit housing, and single-family dwellings in Alameda County. Any residence is susceptible to a bedbug infestation. Determining the origin of an infestation can be difficult.

The following signs indicate a bedbug infestation:

- Blood spots or smears on bed sheets.
- Wake up in the morning with numerous “welts.”
- Bed bugs are seen wandering on the bedding, mattress, or bed frame.

Once the infestation is determined, you as a tenant should do the following:

- Report bed bug infestation to the building management as soon as possible. The owner of the property is responsible for the abatement of the infestation.
- Do not attempt to control a bed bug infestation by yourself, especially with “bug bombs.”
- Do not remove anything from the infested room unless instructed by management or the pest control operator, using adequate precautions.
- Cooperate fully with the recommendations provided by the management and pest control operator when preparing the room for inspection and treatment.

Don’t over-react! Many people will immediately throw out mattresses, beds, furniture, and clothing. This can scatter the bedbugs throughout the apartment. Infested items can be picked up by others. Don’t use “bug bombs” as these are ineffective and can also scatter the bugs. New mattresses, beds, and bedding can easily be re-infested.

Your responsibilities as a tenant:

Make a plan of action: Controlling bedbugs requires quite a bit of work and can be time consuming. Knowing what to do and how to do it will help. You should expect from management:

1. A pre-treatment preparation list of things to do to prepare for the bedbug treatment from the pest control company.
2. You should be allowed a reasonable amount of time to prepare your unit for the treatment. Cluttered residences need more time and effort to prepare. If for any reason you are not able to prepare, other arrangements should be made. If the unit is not

prepared per requirements, pest control will not treat the unit or treatment will be ineffective. This will waste time, money, and prolong your bedbug infestation.

The following are examples of tasks that you may be expected to complete:

1. Launder bed linens and clothes. Place clean clothes and linens into clear plastic bags, seal and label "cleaned". Store away from infested area or in bathtub.
 - a. Any item that can go into the dryer such as stuffed toys, backpacks, and curtains should be placed in dryer on high for at least 30 minutes. After drying, bag items, seal, and label.
2. Dressers, bedside tables, and cabinets should be emptied for treatment. Move furniture away from walls. Make desks, sofas, chairs, and other furniture accessible for treatment.
3. Inspect non-washable personal items and place into plastic bags. This includes wall hangings such as pictures, calendars and clocks. Personal belongings can be thoroughly inspected, treated with heat, freezing, Vapona (DDVP) strips, or space sprays applied into plastic bags containing belongings or fumigated. Consult pest control operator for details. *Always check the product labels to determine what items may be damaged by the product.*
4. When personal items are removed or bagged, treated and segregated, thoroughly vacuum floors and upholstered furniture, mattress and box spring. Discard vacuum cleaner bag or empty contents into plastic bag, seal and discard in outside garbage can.
5. Any mattress, box spring, frame, or other furniture to be discarded should be wrapped in plastic and labeled "Bed Bug Infested." *Remember these items do not necessarily need to be discarded, so check with the pest control professional.*

- Take precautions to minimize a re-infestation. Avoid obtaining used furniture. Launder all used clothing, linens, and curtains. If you stay at a hotel/motel or other place where bedbugs are likely; launder clothing upon arriving home and treat or inspect suitcases.

THE PEST CONTROL COMPANY WILL PROVIDE TENANTS WITH A PRE-TREATMENT PREPARATION LIST THAT WILL INCLUDE THE ABOVE. FOLLOW THEIR INSTRUCTIONS. IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF THE INSTRUCTIONS, ASK QUESTIONS (management, pest control operator or our District). ENSURE FURNITURE, BEDS, WALLS AND CLOSETS ARE ACCESSIBLE FOR TREATMENT. THIS WOULD ENTAIL MOVING BED AND FURNITURE AWAY FROM WALLS AND EMPTY DRAWERS. THE EASIER YOU MAKE IT FOR THE PEST CONTROL TECHNICIAN TO PERFORM THEIR TREATMENT, WILL RESULT IN AN EFFECTIVE TREATMENT.