

Bed Bug Information for Landlords and Property Managers

Multi-unit dwellings, including hotels, apartments, hostels, shelters, student residences and rooming houses, are high-risk locations for bed bug infestations. The best method to deal with bed bugs is Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which combines a variety of techniques and products that pose the least risk to human health and the environment.

Collaboration between tenants and landlords is necessary to eliminate bed bug infestations. The following steps are recommended for landlords and property managers dealing with bed bug infestations:

1. **Early detection of bed bug infestation:** respond to tenant's complaint about bed bugs, and conduct proper inspections. Consult Toronto Public Health or professional pest control services about how to confirm bed bugs infestations.
2. **Control of bed bugs:** use a professional pest control service experienced in bed bug control and Integrated Pest Management (IPM).
3. **Preparation:** consult with tenant(s) in bed bug-affected unit(s) to ensure adequate preparation steps have been taken to prepare room(s) prior to treatment
4. **Inspection after treatment:** ensure an inspection by either the property manager/landlord or pest control professional is carried out following treatment to assess the treatment's effectiveness and determine if more spray is needed. Often more than one treatment is required.
5. **Prevention:** seal cracks and crevices between baseboards, on wood bed frames, floors and walls with caulking. Repair or remove peeling wallpaper, tighten loose light switch covers, and seal any openings where pipes, wires or other utilities come into the home (pay special attention to walls that are shared between apartments).
6. **Furniture removal:** Furniture put out from the infested units should be removed as soon as possible, and dismantled so that it is not picked up by someone else.

For more information:

- Toronto Public Health – www.toronto.ca/health or 416-338-7600
- Effective Control of Bed Bugs, Health Canada, Pest Management Regulatory Agency - http://www.pmr-arla.gc.ca/english/consum/bed_bugs-e.html#2