

Bed Bugs: Hotels, Motels and B&Bs

The risk of bed bug problems is higher in certain types of buildings where many different people are staying including hotels, motels and bed-and-breakfast accommodations (e.g. B&Bs).

HAVE AN INSPECTION PLAN

It is important to have a plan in place to inspect for bed bugs and manage any problems once identified. Detailed information on identifying bed bugs, and bed bug bites, can be found on the provincial website bedbugsinfo.ca

THE INSPECTION PLAN

An inspection plan should begin with training all staff to identify bed bugs. The more staff who are trained, the more likely bed bugs will be identified. This training will also be helpful to respond to complaints from guests.

A protocol for inspection should also be developed. For example, housekeeping staff could make visual inspections when cleaning a room after check-out.

If you suspect a problem, contact a public health inspector to confirm.



Blood spots and bed bug droppings on a mattress

STEPS TO TAKE WHEN A PROBLEM IS CONFIRMED

Integrated pest management (IPM) is the best way to deal with bed bugs. This means using different methods and products that cause the least amount of risk to the health of humans and the health of the environment. The services of a professional pest control company will be needed to deal with the problem using IPM.

Visit the Structural Pest Management Association of Ontario (SPMAO) at spmao.ca to locate a licensed company. You may want to ask if they have any experience dealing with bed bugs.

See reverse for more information.

A visit to the room after treatment is important to ensure the treatment worked or to determine if more is needed.

You may see living bed bugs for up to 5 to 10 days after the room has been treated. If large numbers of bed bugs are still visible after 10 days, call your pest control company.

STEPS TO PREVENT BED BUGS

Unfortunately, there is little that can be done to prevent guests from bringing bed bugs into the building. However, there are some steps that can be taken to reduce their impact.

- Use caulking to fill in gaps or cracks on the baseboards, on the floor or on the walls.
- Repair any peeling wallpaper and fix loose light switch covers. Bed bugs like to live in all of these places.
- Fill in any openings or spaces where pipes and wires come into the room, especially on walls that are shared with another room. This could limit the spread of bed bugs from room to room.

THE ROLE OF THE HEALTH UNIT

You can contact the Health Unit to confirm a bed bug problem. To speak with a public health inspector, call 625-5930 or 1-888-294-6630, ext. 5930.

You can also bring bugs to the Health Unit for identification. To make it easier:

- Put the bug in a container with a lid; write contact information on the container.
- Don't squish the bug or it may be hard to tell what it is.
- Bring container to 999 Balmoral Street between 8:30am-4:30pm, Monday to Friday.

MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

More detailed information — including fact sheets, videos, photos and links to other valuable resources — can be found on the provincial website bedbugsinfo.ca

Fact sheets include:

- Identifying bites
- Bed bug myths
- Bed bugs and occupational health

Videos include:

- How to identify bed bugs

