

Bed Bugs: Landlords

The risk of bed bug problems is higher in certain types of buildings where many different people are living or staying including apartments, hostels and rooming houses.

HOW TO TELL THERE IS A PROBLEM

It is important that all staff have training to identify bed bug problems. Detailed information on identifying bed bugs, including photos of bed bugs and their bites, can be found at bedbugsinfo.ca

Include a check for bed bugs as part of regular inspections to help identify any problems. If you have had any problems in the past, consider developing a monthly inspection schedule with your tenants.

It is important to pay attention to complaints from tenants and act on them right away. If you suspect a problem, contact a public health inspector to confirm. Once confirmed, it is important for the tenant and the landlord to work together.



Blood spots and bed bug excrement (e.g. 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.

Work with the tenant(s) in the unit(s) where you have found bed bugs to make sure they have done everything needed to get the room ready for treatment. A Health Unit fact sheet for tenants is also available. Visit TBDHU.COM/eh for a copy or call 625-5930 or 1-888-294-6630, ext. 5930.

See reverse for more information.

A visit to the unit by the manager/landlord after treatment is important to determine if the treatment worked or if more is needed.

You may see living bed bugs for 5 to 10 days after the unit 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

It is very difficult to prevent bed bugs from entering a unit. 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 unit, especially on walls that are shared with another unit. This could limit the spread of bed bugs from unit to unit.
- Take unwanted furniture out of the unit as soon as possible. Take it apart so that it is not picked up and used by someone else.

THE ROLE OF THE HEALTH UNIT

You can contact the Health Unit to confirm bed bugs. 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
- Tenant rights in Ontario regarding bed bugs

Videos include:

- How to identify bed bugs

