



# Bed Bug Information for Landlords

Anyone can get bed bugs and they are challenging pests to control. Multi-unit dwellings, including hotels, apartments, hostels, shelters, student residences and rooming houses can have bed bug infestations. An integrated pest management strategy offers the best method of control. Use of a licensed pest control operator is recommended for pesticide treatments. Cooperation between tenants and landlords is necessary to prevent and control infestations.

To prevent and control bed bugs, landlords can:

**Eliminate bed bug hiding places.** Seal cracks and crevices between baseboards, floors and walls with caulking. Repair peeling wallpaper or cracked plaster. Paint walls and ceilings where paint is chipped. Make sure all holes, cracks, gaps, and voids around pipes, baseboards and electrical cover plates are sealed with caulking or expansion foam to prevent pests from traveling unit to unit.

**Detect bed bugs early.** Respond to a tenant's complaint about bed bugs and inspect unit for signs of bed bugs. All the units surrounding an infested one should also be inspected. Consult with a licensed pest control operator to confirm an infestation.

**Use integrated pest management for control.** A licensed pest control operator is recommended for pesticide treatment of bed bug infestations. All the infested units should be treated together. Often more than one treatment is required to treat an infestation.

**Instruct tenants about preparation of unit** before pest control treatment. Give tenants sufficient time to prepare. Proper preparation of a unit and removing clutter will help ensure pest control treatment is effective.

**Monitor effectiveness of treatment.** After pest control treatment assess the effectiveness and monitor units for signs of bed bugs. In addition to signs of bed bugs, double sided sticky tape or insect sticky traps that catch bugs can help identify bed bugs.



Courtesy of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

