

BED BUG CHECKLIST FOR APARTMENT BUILDING MANAGERS & LANDLORDS

Early inspection and intervention is the key to keeping bed bug problems manageable and affordable. Eliminating bed bugs demands cooperation between the tenant(s), pest control company, and building management. Skipping labor-intensive strategies to save money in the short term will likely result in even bigger problems, and cost you more in the long run. Pesticides alone **WILL RARELY** solve the problem due to bed bug resistance. Improper application of pesticides can even cause bed bugs to spread to other building areas.

Here is a checklist of strategies for preventing, eliminating and containing the spread of bed bug infestations. There is no “magic form” for eliminating bed bug problems - the process will take time and require patience. This is only a suggested checklist since every building is different. Hiring a pest control operator with bed bug elimination experience is recommended (see guidelines Provided). If hired, always follow the pest control operator’s advice.

BE PROACTIVE

- Use good building practices and maintenance to prevent pest problems.
 - Caulk baseboards, loose tiles, and chair-rail moldings
 - Remove carpeting when possible
 - Fix storage and clutter issues in common areas

- Develop a “bed bug action plan” for your building(s).
Include strategies for:
 - Responding to reports or complaints
 - Containing and eliminating infestations
 - Disposing of infested furniture
 - Educating and advising tenants
 - Managing requests for relocation

- Educate tenants and staff about bed bugs before they become a problem.
Provide information on:
 - The reappearance of bed bugs as a problem around the world
 - What bed bugs are and what they look like
 - How to recognize a bed bug problem
 - How to prevent bed bugs from becoming a problem (i.e., discourage use of “alley” mattresses or furniture; reduce clutter)
 - What to do when a bed bug problem is suspected

- If bed bugs are a recurring problem, consider having periodic inspections, buying a steam cleaner (steam heated to at least 170°F) and training staff to operate it, or making serious repairs to building (i.e., replacing carpeting with a hard-surface flooring).

