

IPM for Bed Bugs

The objective of bed bug control is complete eradication. Due to their very nature as tiny, nocturnal insects prone to hiding, **bed bug control operations are difficult and painstaking.** With the exception of whole-house/unit treatments, such as fumigation and thermal remediation (convection heat), it is necessary to find and treat every hiding place. Techniques available to the non-professional require careful work and attention to detail.

Current best practices in bed bug control are changing at a rapid rate. The operations discussed here represent the state of bed bug management at the time of writing or revision. New materials and techniques are continually becoming available for use against bed bugs and, if successful, may radically change the nature of bed bug management.

Different types of buildings and facilities will necessarily adopt different bed bug management strategies. Health care facilities that serve a continually changing roster of patients will need to focus on prevention, while an apartment community will probably focus on discovery and tenant cooperation. Be sure to adapt your program to fit the individual character of the facility you are serving whether it is a home, multi-unit housing, or other facility.

Strategies that DO NOT work:

Abandoning rooms, apartments, or whole facilities will not guarantee that bed bugs will be eradicated. Adult bed bugs can live without a blood meal for long periods of time and will wander to find a new host.

The use of “bug bombs” or total release foggers is not advised.

While some of these products may be labeled for use against bed bugs, this delivery method is unlikely to control a bed bug infestation and can be very dangerous if applied incorrectly.

Discarding beds and bedding

will not rid your home of bed bugs completely. Bed bugs may also be hiding in other places. New mattresses, if not protected, will become infested as well. Whether you decide to keep or to replace your old mattress, it is recommended that you seal the mattress AND box spring in a high-quality bed bug-proof vinyl plastic or fabric encasement.

Inspection

Because bed bugs can hide in the smallest cracks and crevices, you will not know where to treat until you perform a detailed inspection. Because eggs and freshly hatched nymphs are as small as 1 mm and translucent, it is easy to overlook them. Using the proper equipment and conducting a thorough inspection before you begin any control operation will assure the best results.

Tools and equipment

You will need at least the following equipment:

- **Flashlight**

Bed bugs usually hide in dark crevices; without a flashlight, you may not see them. Use a bright flashlight (LED recommended) with fresh batteries.



- **Magnifying glass**

At 1 mm, most people need a magnifying glass to clearly see bed bug eggs and freshly hatched bed bugs. Get a large magnifying glass to make close-up examinations easier.



- **Collection containers** (re-sealable plastic bags, tightly capped vials, small jars, etc.)

You may need to keep the evidence you find. If you find insects that may or may not be bed bugs, you will want a specimen to submit to a professional for identification. Most pest management companies will identify pests for free.



- **Forceps, tweezers, or a thin probe** to help collect specimens



- **Probe** for checking cracks

If cracks and crevices are too deep to inspect, you can use a metal spatula, putty knife, or other small probe to drive bed bugs out into the open. You can make a tool by cutting a long thin triangular piece from an old credit-type card, as illustrated.



Compressed air can also be used to flush bed bugs from hiding places in tight cracks.

- **Hand tools** for gaining access to outlets, access panels, etc. You may need to remove access panels or outlet covers to inspect for bed bugs. A selection of screwdrivers, pliers, and an adjustable wrench may come in handy.
- **Alcohol wipes**, baby wipes, or alcohol and cotton swabs
If you find spots that may be bed bug fecal stains or droppings, you can wet them with an alcohol swab, wipe, or baby wipe and look for a red or reddish brown color on the wipe. This will help you distinguish between bed bug droppings and dirt/lint or other matter.



What to look for

You will be inspecting for live or dead bed bugs, cast skins, eggs, and fecal stains or droppings. In a light infestation, there may be little to see.

- **Bed Bugs Live or Dead**
Live bed bugs may be crawling around their harborage or sitting quietly in a crack or a crevice. Newly hatched bed bugs are beige and difficult to see until they have had a blood meal. Bed bugs that have fed have a dark digestive tract and can be seen much easier than unfed bugs (see illustration). As they mature, the bugs become darker and easier to see on light colored backgrounds. Dead bed bugs are frequently found in or near the harborage and often with their legs and antennae broken off.
- **Cast skins**
Bed bugs grow by shedding their skin (molting) and leave a shed skin behind after each molt. The skins look like empty shells of the bed bugs about the same size as the bed bug stage that left it. They are extremely light and will blow away at the slightest breeze.



- **Eggs**

Although they are only about 1 mm long, bed bug eggs are white and will show up well in a number of situations. They are more visible on dark backgrounds or smooth surfaces. Females have a tendency to lay eggs around their harborage areas. A cluster of eggs is a pretty good indication that there is a fertilized female nearby. Frequently, she will be hiding in a crevice just out of sight.



- **Fecal Stains & Droppings**

The droppings appear as small dark or black spots and are frequently the easiest to spot of all the evidence. A grouped arrangement of droppings suggests a closer search of the area. Droppings may appear as solid blobs or as thin ink-like stains. They can be seen as blood spots on sheets and pillows. The illustrations show moderate to heavy infestations, but in lighter infestations, there may be only a few spots.



How to look

Begin your search where people sleep and move across the area in a systematic fashion. It is important that you inspect all habitable crevices, and developing a method for ensuring you inspect each area can help prevent missed areas. It has been suggested from an informal study that 90% of the bed bugs can be found in mattresses, bed frames, nightstands, and upholstered furniture. While bed bugs can be found virtually anywhere, you should begin your search in the high probability areas, normally within 15-20 feet of the sleeping area. Hold your flashlight parallel to the surface being inspected to reveal eggs and newly hatched bed bugs.



With the light being shone from above, they may blend in to the background, but a flashlight held parallel to the surface will cause eggs and small bed bugs to cast a shadow that is easier to see.

Inspecting the bed

Inspection for bed bugs starts in the place where people sleep and moves out from there to other parts of the room. This inspection should be conducted before room preparation steps are taken.

Mattress inspection should focus on the following areas:

- Along the top and bottom seams, and along each side of the piping material sewn onto these edges
- Under mattress handles and along or inside air holes
- Between the mattress and box spring, platform or frame
- Inside folds of material and under buttons
- If mattresses are covered in vinyl plastic, look inside seams and rips in material
- Use alcohol or baby wipes to rub suspected bed bug droppings - if the spots dissolve into a reddish brown color, this could indicate bed bug droppings and should be a reason to continue inspecting until a live bed bug is found



Box spring inspection should focus on the following areas:

- Points where the box spring sits on the bed frame (lift slowly to avoid scattering bed bugs)
- The top surface of the box spring, inside folds of material
- Along seams and where the material is tacked to the frame
- Underneath the fabric cover - turn over the box spring and remove the thin cloth layer on the underside
- Use a flashlight, a magnifying glass and a crevice tool to check the spaces between box spring frame parts
- Look around and beneath furniture staples and tacks
- Use a flushing agent like compressed air to chase bed bugs out of hiding spots



Bed frame and head board inspection

- Wood beds and head boards (especially wicker) are preferred hiding spots for bed bugs over metal bed frames, but bed bugs will hide in crevices on metal and plastic, or where a mattress touches a metal frame.
- Visually inspect and use the crevice tool in all joints of the frame where parts meet.
- Turn the frame over and inspect from the underside.
- Check screw and nail holes for bed bugs.
- Take the bed apart to check between parts.
- Remove the head board from the bed and check for bed bugs along the joints and on the wall behind it.
- Double faced tape or carpet tape can be placed on the underside of furniture to capture wandering bed bugs. This is a monitoring tool, not a control strategy.
- Wicker furniture provides infinite hiding spots for bed bugs. Anything made of wicker should probably be discarded. See below for instructions on [disposing of infested items](#).



Inspecting other furniture near the bed

Furniture such as night stands will be likely places to find bed bugs, since they are close to sleeping hosts. As the bed bug population grows, overcrowding may force them to harbor farther away from their host.

- Empty drawers and shelves of the furniture closest to the bed, and place items into plastic bags to be inspected and cleaned.
- Electronics, such as lamps, remote controls, alarm clocks, and radios should be placed into plastic bags for further inspection and possible treatment.
- Pull out drawers and inspect every corner and the undersides, using a crevice tool to check under the metal drawer guide.





- Use the crevice tool to inspect gaps wherever the tool will fit, such as between the shelf and bookcase frame.
- Turn over all furniture to inspect the underside.
- Be sure to inspect screw and nail holes.
- Plastic and metal furniture can also harbor bed bugs, follow the same inspection procedures.
- Office-style chairs should be inspected by turning them over and checking screw holes and seams where fabric attaches to the frame.

Inspecting plush furniture

Plush furniture, such as a couch, will harbor bed bugs, even if residents are not sleeping there. In these cases, inspection will be more difficult due to the many inaccessible hiding spots.

- Inspect pillows and cushions, particularly the seams and the folds around zippers.
- Look at, and under legs of chairs and couches.
- Turn over the furniture and remove the thin cloth backing under each piece.
- Pay special attention to staples and where material is stapled to the frame.
- Look inside at all wood parts of the frame.
- If the piece is highly infested, consider disposing of it in a proper manner (see [furniture disposal](#) guidelines).



Inspecting the room perimeter

Once established, bed bugs will spread toward the perimeter of the room, including walls, moldings, and rugs.



- Look at moldings or the joint between the floor and wall closest to the bed.
- Use the crevice tool to check behind moldings. The tool will chase bed bugs out of hiding if used in a sweeping motion.
- Fold back the edges of wall-to-wall carpets to inspect for signs of bed bugs.
- Pay attention to the tack strip of carpets.

- Look under the edge of area rugs.
- Using a screwdriver, remove electrical switch and outlet, and phone jack plates to inspect. If bed bugs are hiding in these areas, signs may be evident along the edges and on the back of the plate.
- Inspect everything hanging on the walls. If framed art or photos are present and there is evidence of bed bugs nearby, open the frame to inspect inside or under the paper backing.
- Check under loose wallpaper and areas of peeling paint.
- Take down curtain rods and inspect inside them and underneath hardware on the walls.
- Look at closet, bathroom and other door frames, along hinges, and in the bore hole for the latch on each door.
- Make a note if bed bugs are found on walls. Ceiling lights and fixtures with bed bugs could indicate that they are moving from a room or unit above.
- If bed bugs are on walls, they may hide under ceiling moldings and in smoke detectors.



Inspecting unusual locations

Bed bugs may turn up in unexpected places in moderate and large infestations. If the infestation is large, every object in the affected area should be carefully inspected. Bed bugs have been found in such locations as:

- Television and other remote controls, in the battery compartment
- Telephones, cell and cordless phones
- Lamps and alarm clocks
- Computers and other electronics
- Cardboard boxes in closets and under the bed
- Children's toys and stuffed animals
- Jewelry boxes
- Brick walls and "popcorn" or other textured ceilings
- Books, magazines, newspapers, and files
- Inside hollow doors



- Ceiling light fixtures
- Smoke detectors
- Heating units
- Air conditioners and ducts
- Wheelchairs



Signs of room-to-room spread

Often, bed bugs infesting a room or unit will make their way to an adjacent room or unit through electrical, heat and phone line conduits. It has even been documented that bed bugs can cross hallways and move between units under doors. It is important to identify cases where this happens and address the problem from both sides of the wall or hall.

Evidence that may suggest room to room movement of bed bugs includes:

- Bed bugs in ceiling light fixtures
- Bed bugs hiding in and coming out of electrical and switch plates on walls and bed bug droppings found on the inside of the switch plates, or near ducts
- Bed bugs frequently found in unusual locations, such as the kitchen or bathroom. In such a case, it may be that the kitchen or bathroom is located adjacent to an infested bedroom or heavily infested unit, and bed bugs are traveling along water pipes.

Bed bug detecting dogs

Several companies in Michigan offer bed bug detection using dogs, specifically trained for locating bed bugs. The dogs are a highly efficient and sensitive tool, and can be especially useful in multi-unit housing situations. However, like any inspection tool, they are not 100% accurate. Combining the services of a bed bug detection dog with a licensed pest management professional can improve the chances of finding and eliminating obscure harborages. A 2-dog system is sometimes used to reduce the problem of “false positives”. When the dog signals for bed bugs, a pest management technician should be present to confirm and later treat the area. Dogs can positively indicate a bed bug problem, but it is unclear whether using a bed bug dog can absolutely rule out bed bugs (for example, if bed bugs are hiding in an area inaccessible to the dog). The dog handler team should be recognized by a certifying organization, such as the National Entomology Scent Detection Canine Association.

Identification

Prior to undertaking any treatment, a positive identification of the pest should be made by a professional. IPM treatment is tailored to the specific pest. Most pest management companies can provide this service. Pest identification services are also available to the general public in Michigan through [Michigan State University Diagnostic Services](#).



Treatment

Controlling bed bugs requires a significant investment of time and resources. **Bed bugs can be eliminated** with a coordinated effort that includes cooperation of the resident and pest management professional (PMP), or the resident, landlord/property manager, and PMP. There is no single tool or activity that, used alone, will eliminate bed bugs, including pesticides. Multiple techniques are always required because bed bugs are small, good at hiding, and can survive long periods of time without feeding. Despite the challenges, the technology of bed bug control is getting better and elimination of a bed bug infestation is achievable. The components of a sound treatment plan include:

- Education
- Reporting and Record Keeping
- Pre-treatment
- Treatment (both non-chemical and pesticides)
- Post-treatment Assessment

Educating Residents and Staff

The administrators and facilities managers of apartment buildings, group homes, dormitories, homeless shelters, and other types of housing should seek to better educate residents about bed bugs and how to prevent them. The Michigan Bed Bug Working Group offers fact sheets on bed bugs to educate the public. These fact sheets are available at www.michigan.gov/bedbugs. In addition, non-profit associations such as the Michigan Pest Management Association and/or its member firms offer bed bug training programs. This manual also contains fact sheets for resident education in the [Appendices](#) section.

Reporting and Recordkeeping

It is critical for managers of multiple-unit housing of any type to encourage residents to report suspected cases of bed bugs to the facility manager. If a bed bug problem is not addressed immediately, it will grow quickly and spread throughout the facility room by room. Eliminating a widespread problem is MUCH more expensive and difficult than a limited one.

Bed bugs and other pests sometimes elicit fear and panic in people. Most are unwilling to live with pests, especially those that bite. However, some individuals are resigned to living with bed bugs and may be the source of an infestation in an adjacent unit or room. **Encourage residents to speak openly about bed bugs** and other pests and to ask for help. Be sensitive to their concerns. Complaints about pests or bites must be handled IMMEDIATELY, but also with a logical approach that relies on science and pest control expertise.

Designation of a pest management coordinator in your organization can streamline the handling of complaints and infestations. The typical course of events would be receipt of a complaint, inspection (of one or many units), confirmation, cleaning, treatment, future prevention, and follow up to be sure the problem was handled adequately. There should be one person in charge of overseeing the inspection and treatment process. Often this is the building or facility manager. Use resources available to you, and gather the contact information of experts, such as your pest control company's staff entomologist, to ensure a quick response.

Management should keep records of the following for all types of pests:

- Date of the complaint
- Type of complaint (bites, bug sightings, damage to property)
- Unit or room number
- Date of first pest inspection
- Results of the inspection, what was found, how much was found
- Dates of pest management activities
- What pest management strategies were used, such as cleaning, pesticide treatments, resident education

Recordkeeping Requirements for Licensed Pest Management Firms and Certified Commercial Pesticide Applicators in Michigan

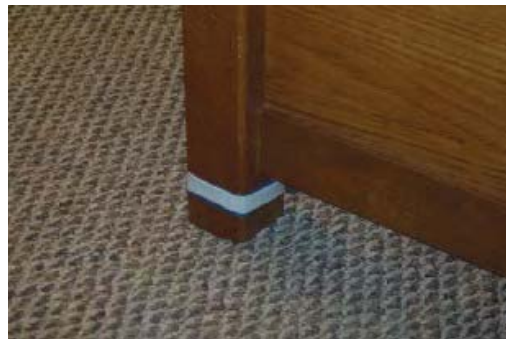
The recordkeeping requirements for licensed pest management businesses and certified commercial pesticide applicators are outlined in State of Michigan regulations and are available in [Appendix H](#) of this manual.

Isolating the Bed

(To help reduce bites immediately)

A couple of simple steps can dramatically improve the quality of life for a resident in an infested apartment. These steps can help reduce bites from bed bugs while a treatment plan is initiated or is ongoing:

1. A thorough vacuuming of the apartment is recommended to reduce the number of bed bugs present, especially in the sleeping areas and around and under the bed.
2. Headboards and bed frames should be carefully inspected and cleaned of any signs of bed bugs or eggs. They are easily cleaned and scrubbed with standard household cleaning agents.
3. Encase the mattress and box spring to prevent bed bugs from reaching residents.
4. The bed should be moved away from the wall, bed skirts should be removed and bedding should be prevented from touching the floor to prevent bed bugs from climbing onto the bed.
5. Once it is thought that there are no bed bugs on the headboard, frame, and mattress, petroleum jelly or double-sided tape on the legs of the bed can prevent bed bugs from crawling up from the floor. Residents can also place a plastic dish with a thin layer of cooking oil below the legs of the bed to trap bed bugs as they try to climb to the bed. These techniques may be more difficult with platform-style beds.



Pre-Treatment Preparations

Preparation of a living area for bed bug elimination should focus on containment of the infestation through cleaning, organizing, repairs, and physical barriers. Do everything possible to avoid spreading bed bugs to new locations.



A combination of the following steps will be needed for bed bug control:

- Clean and organize the bed, bedroom, other living areas, furniture and belongings, focusing on the elimination of clutter.
- Physically remove bed bugs and eggs using a vacuum.
- Isolate the bed (see above), using barriers, such as mattress encasements and sticky barriers (sticky traps may be useful for monitoring but will not help control bed bugs).
- Eliminate bed bug hiding spots
 - Fix peeling wallpaper or paint
 - Caulk or seal cracks and crevices around the room and on furniture
 - Seal floors or the spaces between floor boards or tiles
 - Make other repairs to the living area to reduce hiding spots
- Employ professional pest management that uses a combination of chemical and non-chemical methods to eliminate a bed bug infestation.

It is important to consider that a bed bug infestation in a living area (bedroom, apartment, dormitory room, shelter room or unit) might spread to adjacent units or those below, above or to the sides. This is especially true if the population is high or if pesticides are used in the original unit. Adjacent units should be inspected and if bed bugs are found or residents report bites, they should be treated as if infested and the above measures should be applied.

Cleaning and organizing a room or home

Cleaning and organizing a room or home for bed bug management can be as burdensome as changing residences. It is, however, an extremely important first step to control bed bugs, because bed bugs will thrive in a cluttered living area. Vacuuming and cleaning should be done before chemical or non-chemical treatment. Cleaning should be carried out in a systematic way, beginning with removing items from the infested room or home. Soap or detergent will aid



WARNING! When chlorine bleach is mixed with acid or ammonia, it produces toxic gases that can harm you.

You can't always tell if a cleaning product contains bleach, acid, or ammonia, so for safety's sake, never mix cleaning products together!

in the clean up of bed bug debris and allergens, making the environment healthier and more tolerable for those living there. Bleach and ammonia may kill bed bugs if sprayed directly on them, but their vapors can also be harmful- USE CAUTION, and **NEVER mix bleach and ammonia!**

Steps to follow include (preparation for heat treatment may involve different steps):

- Scan the room for items on the floor. Make a plan for each item, and how it will be quarantined (closed into a plastic bag, for example), inspected, sanitized of bed bugs, and stored until further notice.
- Place clothes, shoes, plush toys, pillows, and bedding into large clear plastic bags and seal them tightly to be laundered.
- Empty furniture items for better inspection
- Plastic tote bins that have an airtight seal can be used for items that cannot be laundered, such as hard toys, electronics, books, breakable items, etc. Be prepared to store these items for a period of time until they can be thoroughly inspected or enough time has passed that bed bugs are dead – at least a year. Another method is to have these items treated in the container, consult a PMP for guidance.
- Launder all clothing and bedding (it is recommended to use the highest heat settings for washing and drying if possible)
- Move furniture away from walls



In places such as shelters, long term care facilities, institutional child care centers, and camps, cleaning teams or the facility management may be responsible for the majority of housekeeping duties. Cleaning for bed bugs should focus on sleeping and lounging areas (whereas cockroach control depends on sanitation in cooking and eating areas). However, for cleaning to have any impact, the resident must cooperate by reducing clutter, organizing, and bagging their belongings. There may be a need to store their belongings temporarily. Be certain every item is bagged until it can be cleaned of bed bugs. Units should always be cleaned and inspected before new tenants move in.

Vacuuming

A cleaning procedure for bed bugs begins with vacuuming, using a HEPA-equipped vacuum that is dedicated only to pest control. Although a regular vacuum is acceptable, a HEPA-equipped vacuum will reduce the spread of allergens. A crevice tool will be needed to focus suction in small spaces, cracks and crevices. A brush attachment can also be used but must be cleaned carefully to prevent the spread of bed bugs. See below for proper handling of the vacuum cleaner and vacuum bags:



Handling a bed bug vacuum

A vacuum used for bed bugs can have live bed bugs inside and it will be important to avoid transferring bed bugs to new locations.

- **Dedicate a vacuum for the purpose of pest control in multi-unit housing facilities**
- If used only for pest control, after each use, remove the vacuum bag or container and dispose of the bag or container contents in a sealed plastic bag.
- NOTE: A knee-high stocking can be placed on the hose of the vacuum prior to the bag or container. The knee-high stocking will capture bed bugs and larger particulates before they reach the bag. If this technique is used, it may not be necessary to replace the vacuum bag after each use. However, the knee-high stockings should be replaced between each use, sealed in a plastic bag, and discarded.
- Clean the brush attachment with hot water and detergent.
- Store the pest control vacuum in a large plastic garbage bag that is closed tightly.
- Inspect the vacuum before each use to be sure no live bed bugs are on the outside.



Vacuuming procedure

- Once the room has been “stripped” of all personal belongings, begin vacuuming the bed, paying special attention to the mattress seams.
- Use a brush or crevice attachment with a scraping motion to dislodge bed bugs or eggs.
- Remove the mattress and box spring from the bed frame and inspect and vacuum all surfaces, removing all loose debris and visible bed bugs.
- Flip the bed frame over and vacuum any crevices where bed bugs may hide. This is especially important for wooden bed frames and captain’s beds.
- Vacuum inside and under drawers of night stands, dressers, and other furniture.
- Turn over each piece of furniture and vacuum the under side of each.
- Pay attention to screw and nail holes.
- Vacuum along the bottoms of all walls and the moldings. If molding or wallpaper is loose, lift or remove and vacuum underneath.
- Make sure to vacuum around heating units.
- Vacuum along carpet edges.
- Vacuum plush furniture with a carpet-beater attachment or by patting the furniture while vacuuming to flush out bed bugs.
- If a vacuum brush attachment is used it is possible some live bugs or eggs could be caught in the brush bristles. Wash the vacuum brush with hot water and detergent if this is a concern.



Washing Surfaces and Furniture

- Wash all furniture (non-plush) and hard surfaces in the room using a detergent cleanser. Pay attention to crevices and spaces in the frame.
- After removing the mattress and box spring from the bed frame, wash the bed frame liberally with soap and water.
- Wash cribs and children’s bed frames with soap and water rather than using pesticides.
- Wash the floors, moldings, window sills, and walls generously.
- Steam can be used as well. **Do not use liquids or steam on electrical wiring or equipment.**

Rugs and Carpeting

- Many small rugs can be placed into the dryer on a hot setting for 30 minutes.
- If the room has a large area rug, the rug can be steam cleaned within the same time frame that other bed bug control measures are taking place, although steaming should be done before pesticide applications are made. Rugs can be sent out for professional cleaning as well. Wrap in plastic for transport and advise the cleaning company that bed bugs may be present.
- Wall to wall carpeting can harbor bed bugs and should be removed, especially in a heavy infestation, or steam cleaned, paying very close attention to the edges. Prior inspection will help determine where to concentrate steaming efforts. Carpeting may also be treated with a labeled pesticide.
- If carpet is removed or replaced, attention should be paid to the carpet tack strips as they can provide harborage for bed bugs.

Mattress Encasements

Mattress encasements are zippered enclosures that cover the entire mattress. Encasing both mattress and box spring eliminates the need to discard bedding by trapping bed bugs inside and providing a smooth simple outer surface that can be inspected, vacuumed and cleaned easily. Encasements should always be used for non-vinyl mattresses and box



springs for bed bug prevention and management. Special bed bug-proof encasements are made of high quality cloth material that does not tear easily and has no folds around the zipper that might shelter bed bugs. Cheaper vinyl encasements are available but need to be installed carefully to avoid tears. If a small hole appears, duct tape can be used to repair it. Holes **MUST** be repaired to prevent bed bugs from either gaining protection on the inside of the cover, or to prevent bed bugs from escaping from the infested bedding. **It is highly recommended that both mattresses and box springs be encased, to protect the sleeping area and to make bed bug inspections quick and easy.**

Physical repairs

Simple structural repairs are important in containing infestations, eliminating bed bug harborage, and preventing re-infestation.

- Moldings and joints around the room perimeter (floor, doors, cabinets, and windows) should be caulked with silicone sealant to eliminate hiding spots for bed bugs.
- Wall outlets should be inspected and repaired to minimize gaps.
- Openings around pipes or other structures that come through walls, floors and ceilings must be sealed to prevent bed bug movement to/from adjacent units.
- Peeling wallpaper should be repaired or removed.
- Cracks in walls or floors should be repaired.



Disposal of Infested Items

One way bed bugs are likely being transferred from place to place is through infested furniture and discarded objects. When a bed bug infestation is discovered, often the first step people take is to discard infested furniture and belongings. If infested items are discarded they should be wrapped in plastic before disposal and LABELED as “INFESTED WITH BED BUGS.” It is also good practice to destroy or deface the infested items to prevent others from unknowingly collecting and reusing them. Slash mattresses and plush furniture, break box spring frames, and label items with the words “bed bugs” to prevent the spread of bed bugs in your community.

