

- Develop a comprehensive Integrated Pest Management (IPM) process.

This means:

- Conduct regular inspections of common areas.
- Be proactive. Provide tenants with information and resources and work with them to eradicate infestations.
- Support tenants who may be vulnerable and need extra help – connect them with local community supports or Toronto Public Health
- When discarding anything that may be infested– double bag the items and label it



How to Minimize the Spread of Bed Bugs

- Bed bugs travel, so treating a single residential unit may not be enough to get rid of them.
- When renovating, sprinkle some Diatomaceous Earth dust between the walls and behind baseboards – it is organic and an inexpensive preventative measure
- Seal all the gaps in a unit with caulking or expansion foam, including electrical outlets, voids around pipes and baseboards - wherever there is possible access to other units



Working with an Exterminator

- Remember bed bugs spend most of their time in the dark – they come out to feed, then hide
- Over the counter sprays are not effective – call the professionals



When working with an exterminator, be sure they:

- remove mattresses and spray all wood/metal joints, including headboard and footboard
- spray under rugs, under the bed, behind window moldings, picture frames and around and behind baseboards
- spray all joints in the dresser including the individual drawers
- use a powder product around electrical outlets and light switches (not spray liquid)

How to Reduce the Risk

- Be careful when accepting used furniture – don't rescue furniture from the garbage.
- Reduce clutter – it will be easier to clean and more difficult for bed bugs to hide
- Use a mattress and box spring encasement – one designed for bed bug protection
- Eliminate bed bug hiding places by sealing holes and gaps in baseboards, pipes and cover plates – use caulking or expandable foam
- Apply carpet tape to corner posts of bed and place bed legs in tin cans filled with petroleum jelly to check for bed bugs
- Get rid of bed skirts and be sure your sheets don't touch the floor



What Are My Responsibilities?

- **Don't Panic!** Bed bugs are difficult to get rid of, but not impossible
- Respond to tenant complaints immediately. Ask to do a proper inspection. Remember, bed bugs are common and could have been brought home from anywhere – don't blame the tenant.
- Call a professional pest control company to arrange treatment
- Support tenants in their preparation for treatment
- Invest in an Integrated Pest Management system - it will save money in the long run and ensure due diligence in pest control



What I Should Know about Bed Bugs

- Bed bugs travel from unit to unit AND from building to building. They may move to escape treatment, then return
- Bed bugs are more resistant than roaches, they have tougher and less permeable exoskeletons and do not ingest poisons by grooming
- Bed bugs are common and could be brought in from anywhere
- In absence of control they can reproduce quickly. Females can lay between 1 and 5 eggs a day and the eggs hatch within 2 weeks
- Landlords are responsible for ensuring homes are pest-free



Bed Bug Factsheet for Landlords

What Should My Landlord Do?

- Your landlord is responsible for ensuring that homes are pest-free – tenants are responsible for cooperating with landlord
- Your landlord should inspect your unit and then hire a professional pest control company to do a treatment.
- Surrounding units should also be inspected and treated at the same time
- If the landlord does not respond – call City of Toronto Municipal Licensing and Standards (MLS) call 311, Toronto Public Health or a community legal clinic



What Should I Do?

- **Don't Panic!** Bed bugs are difficult to get rid of, but not impossible
- Contact your landlord immediately, preferably in writing.
- Cooperate with your landlord to prepare for treatment.
- Fumigation company will have a checklist or guide for preparing the unit – be sure to follow the instructions. If you need help, call a community agency or Toronto Public Health
- Wash and dry all your clothes and bedding and place in a plastic bag until bed bugs are gone.
- Mattresses don't normally need to be thrown out

