

Bed Bugs

Background:

Bed bug infestation is on the rise in all types of living situations. Although bed bugs were largely eradicated in this country during the late 1940's, the modern prevalence of international travel and the cessation of the use of chemicals such as DDT have led to a recent resurgence in bed bug infestations. Bed bugs are temperature sensitive, wingless, blood-feeding insects that are found all over the world, including the United States.

Bed bugs are often transferred from one location to another on clothing or in the seams and recesses of luggage. Bed bugs can often be found in the seams of mattresses, along baseboards, in box springs, or in the area behind a headboard. Students are advised that while traveling they should keep their luggage up off the floor, conduct inspections of bedding and mattress for infestation, and keep all bags closed when not in use. Additionally, students are advised to launder all clothing and inspect luggage when returning from travel, prior to returning to campus housing.

Bed Bug Policy

The Residence Life and Facilities staffs are committed to providing an effective and efficient response to students who suspect they may have bed bugs. For the safety and comfort of all students living in the residence halls, our staff will adhere to the following guidelines:

1. As soon as a student suspects that he/she may have bed bugs, they should contact the Residence Life at 443-334-2588 or place a Facilities Request on line. If another administrator or office learns of a potential bed bug problem, their first call should be to the Residence Life Office. Early reporting and treatment is critical to successful abatement of a bed bug infestation.
2. Residence Life will notify Facilities and the Assistant Vice President for Residence Life as soon as possible so the exterminator can be dispatched to the location to perform a thorough inspection of the room/suite in question. Please note that should a student notify Residence Life on a weekend or holiday, the Facilities staff will be contacted on the next work day. The exterminator cannot be dispatched on weekends or holidays.
3. Students may not, at any time, deny the exterminator or Facilities staff access to their living space (including their bedroom, suite common space, kitchen, bathroom, etc.)
4. If the exterminator finds that there are no bedbugs present in the student's room or suite, then no further action will be taken. The student will be asked to continue monitoring his/her living space, and to notify Residence Life immediately if there are further problems.
5. If the exterminator concludes that bed bugs are present in the room or suite, Residence Life will provide the affected student(s) with a detailed list of instructions for the removal and laundering of their personal items. It is the student's responsibility to follow these instructions.

6. All clutter and trash in an infested room should be disposed of in sealed bags and brought to the dumpsters near facilities and all clothing and linen should be placed in sealed trash bags for laundering at high heat.
7. Students are responsible to pack up and launder all clothing and bedding. Treatment of a student's living space is of little use if the living space is immediately re-infested due to the return of infested household goods.
8. Students will not vacate their room and move to another campus residence nor remove household goods as this may result in a broader transmission of the bed bugs.
9. *The University will not be responsible for costs incurred by the student for commercial laundering, dry cleaning or other costs related to the bed bug infestation.* Students may use University laundry facilities provided.
10. *Students wishing to be released from their housing contract will not be eligible for financial remuneration.*
11. Students who have vacated campus housing for a time and are returning should inspect and launder their household goods prior to returning to their rooms.
12. *Failure to comply with these responsibilities under the Bed Bug Policy coupled with repeated bed bug infestations may result in a student's removal from campus housing.*
13. Bed bugs are a serious community issue, and all students are expected to comply with all instructions given to them within 24 hours, once bed bugs have been confirmed within their living space.