



WINTER SESSION

Policy: Bedbugs

The staff of Residence Services is committed to 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 ResLife at 250 472 4144 or the Maintenance Line at 250 721 8650 or place a Maintenance Request at the Front Desk of Residence Services. If another administrator or office learns of a potential bed bug problem, their first call should be to Residence Services.
2. Residence Services will dispatch a pest control inspector to the location to perform a thorough inspection of the room/suite in question. Please note that should a student notify Residence Services on a weekend or holiday, the pest inspector will be contacted on the next business day. It is recommended that students contact Residence Services or place a Maintenance Request as early on a regular business day as possible. The pest inspector cannot be dispatched on weekends or holidays.
 - Students who report suspected bed bugs on a business day when the pest inspector can be dispatched within 24 hours will not be granted an immediate temporary room change, nor will they be issued a new mattress until the pest inspector has completed the inspection and submitted the findings. This is crucial so that we can prevent the spread of bed bugs if they are found to be in the student's room and belongings.
 - If the pest inspector is unable to respond to the student's room to inspect within 24 hours, Residence Services staff may be able to provide a temporary location in which the student can sleep until the inspection can take place. This is based on the availability of space within the residence buildings. Any student who is given a temporary relocation is required to wash and dry whatever clothing they need to take with them for the night. Upon doing that, the student should shower and put on clean clothes. Clean laundry is all the student can take to the temporary room. We want to ensure that if there are bed bugs in the student's room, they do not travel to another room with the student.
 - Students may not, at any time, deny the pest inspector or Residence Services staff access to their living space (including their bedroom, suite common space, kitchen, bathroom, etc.)
3. Pest Inspector Findings
 - If the pest inspector 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 Services immediately if there are further problems.
 - If the pest inspector concludes that bed bugs are present in the room or suite, Residence Services will arrange a meeting with all students sharing dorm or cluster unit and provide the affected student(s) with a detailed list of instructions for the removal and laundering of their personal items. Residence Services housekeeping office will assist with laundering bedding and clothing.
 - Only the pest inspector can confirm or deny the presence of bed bugs – not Health Services or any outside person.

4. 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.

What are bedbugs?



* Not to scale (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bedbug>)

- Bedbugs are small nocturnal insects that live by feeding on the blood of humans and other warm-blooded hosts. The adult bedbug is 1/4 inch long, 1/8 inch wide (about the size of an apple seed) and reddish brown. It is flattened from top to bottom, with an oval body that is well adapted for hiding in narrow crevices. The body may become greatly enlarged and blood-red during a blood meal, but it subsequently turns a dirty brown. Bedbugs lack wings and cannot fly, but they are very mobile.
- Bedbugs are generally active at night or dawn, with a peak feeding period approximately an hour before sunrise. After feeding for five to fifteen minutes, the bug returns to its hiding place. They typically walk undetected across human skin.
- Bites consist of a raised red bump or flat welt, and are often accompanied by intense itching. The red bump or welts are the result of an allergic reaction to the anesthetic contained in the bedbug's saliva, which is inserted into the blood of the host. Bedbug bites may appear indistinguishable from mosquito bites, although they tend to last for longer periods. Bites may not become immediately visible and can take up to 9 days to appear. Bedbug bites tend not to have a red dot in the center which is a characteristic of flea bites. A trait shared with flea bites, however, is the tendency towards arrangements of sequential bites. Bites are often aligned three in a row, giving rise to the colloquialism "breakfast, lunch and dinner."
- There have been no known cases of bedbugs passing disease from host to host. Extensive testing has been performed in laboratory settings which confirm this finding. Therefore, bedbugs are less dangerous than some more common insects such as the flea.
- To move from egg through adult and egg again under ideal conditions (75 to 80 percent relative humidity, 83 to 90 degrees F) may take four to five weeks; under less optimal conditions such as lower temperature and/or with fewer blood meals, development time may be longer. Adults can live several months (some say more than a year) and nymphs for three months without feeding. Under typical conditions with a host (food supply), a bedbug may be able to live more than 300 days.

Treatment Protocol for Bedbugs

Treatment Process

Step 1: Inspection

1. Once an area has been identified as a potential problem, a certified Pest Control Inspector will inspect the area. A thorough inspection of the room will include, but not be limited to, the mattress, bed frame, closet, desk, clothing, and any luggage. If bed bugs are confirmed, a meeting will be scheduled at Residence Service office for all students sharing the room/cluster unit to attend to review the treatment process.
2. If an infestation of bedbugs is not found, the area may be treated for any other pest problems that are identified. As with any health issue, if residents continue to experience a skin outbreak, they should see a physician.

Step 2: Treatment

1. All floors must be cleared of any personal items in preparation for treatment.
2. All clothing and bedding will need to be laundered. Bedding should be folded into the middle and then bagged to avoid dropping bedbugs. Place items into plastic bags provided by housekeeping label and leave in the centre of the room on the morning of the treatment. If some items are not possible to be laundered, they will need to be placed in hot clothes dryer for 30 minutes (please make sure to mark bags that cannot be laundered). If you have items that require dry-cleaning (delicates etc.) please advise at time of meeting. After cleaning, all laundry will be placed in new plastic bags and returned to the room by housekeeping upon completion of treatment.
3. All personal possessions and items such as computers, books, clutter, must be inspected for bedbugs and removed from the floors, including closets. If you require help with inspecting items, please advise staff at the meeting and we can arrange for the pest inspector to inspect the morning of the treatment.
4. Wardrobes, closets, nightstands, drawers, etc should be emptied and the contents inspected for infestation.
5. Any cardboard boxes used for storage in the infested areas should be emptied and discarded in plastic bags.
6. All floors, carpet edges, curtains and upholstered furniture should be thoroughly vacuumed. **The vacuum bag must then be disposed of in a plastic bag in an outside garbage can.**
7. Based on the inspection, the mattress will either be treated or removed.
8. Inspection and potential treatment may include rooms immediately surrounding (including above, below, left, right, and across) the target room. This is a precautionary procedure and residents in these rooms are not required to follow the laundry recommendations unless they too have signs of bedbugs.
9. On the day of the scheduled treatment a pre-inspection will be performed by the Housekeeping Supervisors. If the above noted preparation has not been followed students will be asked to return to the room to complete.

Step 3: Post Treatment

1. Ventilate upon re-entry to the treated area by opening doors and windows.
2. **DO NOT** wash or vacuum floors near baseboards for a minimum of 8 weeks following treatment.
3. Follow-up inspections will be performed as necessary to ensure complete eradication. Generally, one follow-up is needed 3-4 weeks after initial treatment.

If any new bites are found after full treatment, residents should notify Residence Services immediately.