

# Bed Bugs are back!



Landlord Informational Flyer

Issue One

Bed bug infestations are a growing problem throughout the city and across the state. Bed bugs bring misery to tenants and landlords alike, and the problem must be addressed promptly and effectively.

Taking the following steps will help you, as a landlord, to prevent infestations of your property, or to successfully eliminate the problem before it gets out of control.



- Inspect all units thoroughly for signs of bed bugs prior to renting the unit to a new tenant.
- Ask all incoming tenants if they have had exposure to bed

bugs in the past. Remind them – in nonthreatening terms – how easy it is to transport bed bugs and infest their new apartment. Share with them printed information about bed bugs and how to prevent infestations. Explain that they may be inadvertently bringing bed bugs into the unit if they are leaving an infested apartment. Taking precautions before moving in will save both the landlord and the tenants the many costs of dealing with an infestation.

- Explain to the tenant that you must be notified immediately if there are any signs of pests in the apartment. The longer you wait, the more protracted and difficult the control will be.

- If notified by a tenant about bed bugs, contact a certified pest management professional IMMEDIATELY. Getting on

top of the problem within the first two months of an infestation will increase the likelihood of success.

- Ask the pest control company how the tenant should prepare for the treatment. Communicate these instructions clearly to the tenant. Make sure the tenant prepares properly for the treatment.
- If there have been no tenant complaints of bed bugs in neighboring apartments, have the exterminator inspect all surrounding apartments (above, below and on either side of the infested unit) to see if bed bugs are in these units.

If your pest control company cannot provide a detailed plan for addressing the infestation, including a schedule of treatments and an Integrated Pest Management strategy for the tenants, look elsewhere for a professional who can. Communication and education are the keys to successful eradication of the problem.

Check out Bed Bug Central for a list of pest management professionals in your area who have been certified Bed Bug FREE: <http://www.bedbugcentral.com/bedbugfree/>

Call 211 for more info!