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The Residential Tenancies Branch

FACT SHEET

Cette information existe également en français.
Composez le 204-945-2476.

Bed Bug Information for Landlords and Property Managers

Residential complexes can be high-risk locations for bed bug infestations. Bed bugs can travel and infest many units, making it a costly and time-consuming problem to get rid of.

Cooperation between tenants and landlords is important to eliminate bed bug infestations. The following steps are suggested for landlords and property managers when dealing with bed bug infestations:

- **Early detection:** Respond to tenants complaints about bed bugs as soon as possible and do a thorough inspection. Talk to an exterminator to learn the signs of infestation.
- **Control of bed bugs:** Use a professional pest control service that has experience in bed bug control. The most common method is Integrated Pest Management (IPM). IPM uses several steps to get rid of bed bugs including vacuuming up the bugs, cleaning, applying pesticides, and follow-up inspection and treatment if needed.
- **Preparation:** Talk to the exterminator and get a written list of what needs to be done before they treat the unit. Give this list to your tenants and make sure they understand what needs to be done. Pre-treatment preparation can take time and work. To get their unit ready, some tenants (especially the elderly and those with special needs) may need help. Work with your tenants to make sure they have the support they need to prepare properly.
- **Inspection after treatment:** Inspect each unit after the treatment to see if it was successful. Often, more than one treatment is required. An exterminator will be able to tell you if a follow-up treatment is needed.
- **Prevention:** Seal cracks and crevices between baseboards, floors, and walls with caulking. Repair or remove peeling wallpaper, tighten loose light switch covers. Seal any openings where pipes, wires or other utilities come into the unit (pay special attention to interior walls between units)
- **Furniture removal:** After getting a tenant's permission to remove infested furniture, it should be contained before being taken out of the unit (for example, if a mattress is infested, wrap it in plastic before taking it down the hall to prevent the bugs and eggs from spreading). Once it is out of the unit and the building, the furniture should be taken away as soon as possible. If the furniture can't be taken away that day, it should be dismantled or labelled as bed bug infested so that it is not picked up by someone else.

This fact sheet is only a brief explanation. For more information on bed bugs, visit the Manitoba provincial website at www.gov.mb.ca/bedbugs.

This information is available in multiple formats upon request.