

Myths Vs. Facts

Myth	Fact
Only dirty people get bed bugs.	Bed bugs are attracted to carbon dioxide and blood, the cleanliness of a person does not matter.
Bed bugs can jump and fly.	Bed bugs do not jump or fly, they can only crawl.
I don't have bites so I don't have bed bugs.	About 50% of the population does not react to bed bug bites.
I need to throw out all my clothes, my bed and my couch.	Clothes can be laundered. Beds and couches can be treated by the treatment company.
Bed bugs are only found on the bed.	Bed bugs are found where people spend the majority of their time.
Bed bugs cannot live if they do not feed.	Bed bugs can live up to a year without feeding.
Bed bugs cause the spread of disease.	There is no known documentation of bed bugs spreading disease.
Bed bugs cannot be seen by the naked eye.	Bed bugs can easily be seen by the naked eye.
Bed bugs are only active and bite at night.	Bed bugs are active all times of the day and will bite any time during the day.
Bed bugs can be treated with store bought products.	These products are not effective. The best way to treat is to have a reputable treatment com-

Treatment/Preparation Companies

Below are a list of companies that will assist with preparing your home for treatment. The cost of the preparation service may be up to you to pay.

The Housing Help Centre does not endorse any of these companies. They are for reference purpose only.

ResQ Canada	289-489-0678
Truly Nolen	1-888-832-4705
Petty Pest Control	289-439-4343
Thermal Pest Control	905-390-1809
Rat Lab	1-844-944-0844
Terminix Pest Control	416-889-5585
Embro Pest Control	905-578-9494

Community Resources

Public Health Bed Bug Reporting

905-546-3570

Hamilton Community Legal Clinic

905-527-4572

Hamilton Housing Help Centre

905-526-8100

Landlord and Tenant Board

1-888-332-3234

HALO Home and Life Organizers

519-465-6625

YWCA Developmental Services

905-522-9922

Gatekeepers

905-527-3823 Ext 279

Niagara Local Health

905-684-9441

Helping Hands

905-546-3057

Victoria Order of Nurses

905-529-0700

Bed Bug Tool Kit

for

Landlords



**Housing
Help Centre**
Hamilton & Area

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What are bed bugs?

- Bed bugs are parasites that feed on blood
- For a bed bug to go through all life stages, from egg to adult, it takes approximately 5 to 6 weeks
- Bed bugs have to feed in order to move from one life stage to the next
- Bed bugs are attracted to carbon dioxide; they are not attracted to clutter
- Adult bed bugs are approximately the size of an apple seed and are reddish-brown in colour
- Bed bug eggs are approximately the size of a pin head, are white in colour and look like a grain of rice

What do I do if a tenant reports bed bug?

- Do not panic
- Either inspect the tenant's home yourself or contact your reputable pest control company to arrange an inspection
- Work with the pest control company and tenant to arrange for the treatment to occur
- Ensure that the tenant is provided with a prep sheet from the pest control company
- The tenant is responsible to ensure that the unit is prepared for treatment
- It is the landlord's responsibility to pay for treatment and ensure the unit is treated.

What is Integrated Pest Management?

- Integrated Pest Management or IPM is a planned approach to prevent and address bed bugs.
- There are numerous factors that play a role in a successful IPM. The three main factors are the landlord, tenant and pest control company. It is very important for all three parties to work together for the success of an IPM.
- Successful IPMs also include the use of regular unit inspections (at minimum two times a year), assisting tenants with prep if there is knowledge that they are struggling, not blaming or shaming people for having bed bugs and bed bug detectors e.g. moats, inceptors, volcanos
- Block treatments have been proven as a successful measure in decreasing the spread of bed bugs. To complete a block treatment the infested unit will be treated, as well as the units above, below, to either side and directly across the hall.
- Chemicals used by the pest control company should be rotated through the treatment process to assist with any bed bugs that have become resistant to the chemicals.
- There needs to be a minimum of two treatments followed by a third dusting treatment. For more severely infested units more treatments will be required.

What are the benefits of IPM?

- Although initially an IPM may appear to be more costly than not using an IPM, long term money will be saved
- Studies have shown that IPMs can drastically reduce bed bugs in multi-unit homes
- It has been shown that in a high rise social housing building, infestations were eliminated in 50% of units and the overall number of infested units was reduced by 63% - Note: this was in a study where the pest control company did not follow all IPM guidelines and did not take the count of bed bugs in units as tracked through detectors into consideration when planning treatment.
- By implementing an IPM bed bug activity will be reduced not only within infested units, but also within the whole building as common areas should also be built into the detection and treatment plan of the IPM. An IPM will also help to decrease the spread of bed bugs from unit to unit.
- With a decrease in the number of infested units and preventive measure in place for early detection, the long term cost of treating for bed bugs will decrease for the landlord.

Duty to Accommodate

- All landlords have a duty to accommodate
- Duty to accommodate means that sometimes you will need to treat a tenant differently in order to prevent or reduce discrimination.
- Duty to accommodate could require that you assist with some of the prep work for the tenant, pay for laundry services, pay for all prep work to occur by a reputable company, work with the tenant to create a plan to allow the tenant more time to complete the prep work on their own. This is a collaborative process
- Duty to accommodate must be done up to the point of undue hardship
- Undue hardship is the point at which the landlord can show that continuing to accommodate the tenant will cause a financial burden on the landlord and/or is disrupting the pleasure of other tenants to the point that the issues are not going to be able to be resolved as shown by previous efforts.

Bed Bug Life Stages

