



What can I do?

Early inspection and intervention is the key to keeping bed bug problems manageable and affordable.

Eliminating bed bugs demands cooperation between the staff, pest control company and building management. Skipping labor intensive strategies to save money in the short term will likely result in even bigger problems, and cost you more in the long run.

Below is a checklist of strategies for preventing, eliminating and containing the spread of a bed bug infestation. There is no magic bullet for eliminating bed bug problems – the process will take time and require patience. This is only a suggested checklist since every building is different. Hiring a pest control operator with bed bug elimination experience is recommended. If hired, always follow the pest control operator's advice.

Scent Tek provides a unique inspection service independent of the pest control operator. We conduct the initial inspection with our Sherlock Hound team to identify the bed bug infestation. You retain the pest control operator to eliminate the problem and we return to do the final inspection confirming a successful elimination.

BE PROACTIVE

- Use good building practices and maintenance to prevent pest problems
- Caulk baseboards, loose tiles, chair-rail moldings, around outlets
- Remove carpeting when possible
- Address any clutter or storage issues in common areas

Develop a bed bug action plan for your building(s). Include strategies for:

- Responding to reports or complaints
- Containing/Eliminating infestations
- Disposing of infested furniture
- Educating and advising tenants
- Managing requests for re-location
- Responding to the media and minimizing public relations impacts

Educate tenants and staff about bed bugs before they become a problem:

- The reappearance of bed bugs as a problem around the world
- What are bed bugs and what they look like
- How to recognize a bed bug problem
- What's being done to reduce the likelihood of a bed bug infestation
- How to prevent bed bugs from becoming a problem
- What to do if you suspect a room has a bed bug problem
- Encasements protect beds and aids in bed bug detection



If bed bugs are a recurring problem, consider having periodic inspections. Prevention starts with catching a problem early. Dogs trained to identify bed bugs have proven the most effective method of inspection accuracy.

RESPONDING TO A COMPLAINT

- Respond sympathetically and avoid blame
- Arrange for a professional inspection
- Inspect all adjacent apartments (above, below, and on both sides) of the likely infested unit
- Schedule an intervention for all apartments where bed bugs are found

Educate tenants on what they can, and should, do now:

- Give them a tenant checklist or factsheet
- Explain to them how the pest control company wants them to prepare for inspection
- Discourage them from throwing away belongings and/or furniture
- Explain to them how to do so properly

ONCE AN INFESTATION IS CONFIRMED

- Implement monitoring system
- Do not use any infested rooms until a pest control professional certifies them as free of bed bugs and we recommend trained dogs confirm the findings
- Re-inspect the infested and adjacent rooms for at least two to three months to ensure that low-level bed bug populations have not gone undetected. We offer protection and prevention plans

Prevent the spread of the infestation by doing the following:

- Inspect all adjacent rooms above, below, and on both sides on a regular basis
- Consider buying mattress encasements if you haven't already
- Seal and make repairs to infested and adjacent rooms
- Caulk or seal cracks and crevices near beds such as those along baseboards, around pipe chases, or around heating and AC units
- Repair holes and other damage in walls
- Repair molding, peeling wall paper, chipping paint and any other damage that may provide hiding places for bed bugs
- Develop system for furniture disposal
- Paint or seal bed frame and hardwood floors