

## Bedbug Information for Emergency Shelters

Revised January 2009

BC Housing has heard from emergency shelter providers across the province that dealing with bed bug infestations in shelters is a significant challenge. To assist shelters, BC Housing asked providers to share their strategies to prevent and respond to bed bug outbreaks in their shelters.

The BC Housing Emergency Shelter Program has compiled a resource list of suppliers. The following basic tips are intended to support shelters in reducing the incidence of bed bugs in shelters. The information provided is advice only and is based on best practices in shelters in Vancouver.

### Limiting Infestations through Integrated Pest Management

Integrated pest management is needed to prevent and manage bed bug problems. Integrated pest management involves five main steps.

1. Identification – identify the pest.
2. Monitoring – monitor for the presence of the pest .
3. Determining appropriate action – when is pest control to be called?
4. Treatments – apply treatments, including preventative measures.
5. Evaluation – evaluate the effectiveness of treatments.

The goals of IPM are:

- Use pesticides only when absolutely necessary;
- Take measures to **prevent**, **find** and **track** the insect problem early;
- Teach people how to deal with bed bugs;
- Maintain awareness that bed bugs can become a problem in any shelter.

### Prevention and Mitigation Tips

- Use bed bug proof mattress and box spring covers.
- Use metal bed frames and metal furniture wherever possible. Bed bugs can hide in wood.
- Eliminate clutter. The more clutter, the harder it is to get rid of bed bugs.
- Segregate all belongings upon entry to shelter; store in double sealed bags until treatment is completed.
- Wash and caulk cracks and crevices in walls, ceiling and floors.
- Paint walls and ceilings where paint is peeling or chipped.
- Remove peeling wall paper.
- Your staff are critical in looking for bed bugs in the sleeping area. Checking for bed bugs is an important part of having a safe, welcoming shelter environment. Schedule bed and bedding checks to ensure detection.
- Insect glue boards are valuable as an early warning of bed bugs. These can catch bed bugs when they are not easily found.
- Vacuum often and dispose of the vacuum bag after sealing it in double sealed plastic bag.

### Tips for Dealing with an Infestation

- Launder everything that can be laundered in hot water and dry on high heat.
- Small non washable items should be put in a freezer for a period of 48 hours to kill eggs.
- Discard infested items in sealed bags (moving companies often have mattress bags).
- Do not drag infested mattresses (furniture, etc.) through hallways – bag them on location before moving them.
- Mark discarded furniture “bed bug infested” or mark it unusable.
- Use Kleen Free on things that might be infested with bugs. Kleen Free is an enzyme that eats bedbug shells.

**Any area to be treated with pesticides should be:**

- Vacated during treatment.
- After chemical treatment, the area should be kept vacant according to manufacturer's instructions. Shelters have told us to vacate for at least 4 to 8 hours and 24 hours if a person is pregnant, or has respiratory ailments, allergies or is sensitive to chemicals.
- Aired out well when the after-treatment period has ended.

**General Information**

- Bed bug mattress covers and box spring covers are sometimes a better and cheaper option than new mattresses.
- BC Housing's Strategic Procurement Department may be able to assist in placing an order for bed frames, mattresses and/or furnishings at a discount. Please contact your Property Portfolio Manager for assistance.

**Conclusion**

Bed bugs are an issue beyond your shelter's walls. Mitigating infestations from one shelter location to another or within your shelter requires dedication and vigilance. There are several cost effective, preventative strategies that can minimize bed bugs entering your shelter. Following some of the basic tips listed above can help.

**Suppliers' Contact Information**

Supplier Name	Product	Description	Phone Number	Email Address	Location	Purpose Prevention / treatment
TL Furniture Consultants	Bed bug free furniture	Bed frames, chairs, desks, mattresses	778.883.7878	n/a	Vancouver, BC	Prevention
Protect a Bed	Mattress covers	Box and mattress encasements	1-800-520-3152	<a href="http://www.caber.ca/">http://www.caber.ca/</a>	Markham, Ontario	Prevention
Heritage Hospitality Supply and Design	Bed bug free furniture	Mattresses and frames	604-685-1127		Vancouver, BC	Prevention
Mattress Safe	Mattress Covers	Waterproof, fire retardant, breathable, hypo-allergenic covers	888-405-5335	<a href="http://mattresssafe.com/">http://mattresssafe.com/</a>	Closest Dealer: Slumber Ease Mattress Factory, Marysville, WA	Prevention
Snooze U Lose	Mattresses and bedroom furniture	Bed bug resistant beds, furniture for Institutional use	604-845- 989 Cell 604-845-8989	n/a	Chilliwack, BC	Prevention
Stone Proof	Sleeping Mats	Portable disaster relief sleeping mats	1-888-786-6773	<a href="http://www.stoneproof.com/">http://www.stoneproof.com/</a>	Graham, Texas	N/A

**Pest Control Contact Information, Lower Mainland**

Pest Control Company Name	Product	Description	Phone Number	Email Address	Location	Purpose Prevention / treatment
Advance Pest Control	Kleen Free	Environmentally friendly option; liquid enzyme that destroys bedbug shells	n/a	<a href="http://www.advancepest.ca/">www.advancepest.ca/</a> —	Various in Lower Mainland	Treatment
Care Pest and Wildlife Control	K-9 Unit	Specially trained bed bug sniffing beagles	604- 432-9422	<a href="http://www.carepest.com/">www.carepest.com/</a> _____	Burnaby, BC	Treatment
Avon Pest Control Contact: Dr Mann	Pest control	Pest management programs	604-805-0278	<a href="http://www.avonpestcontrol.ca/">www.avonpestcontrol.ca/</a> _____	Various in Lower Mainland	Treatment

Bugs Be Gone Pest Control	Pest control	Social enterprise of Portland Hotel Society. All technicians are insured, licensed, and certified by the Ministry Of Environment	604-720-4412	In development	Vancouver, BC	Treatment
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#### Pest Control Contact Information, Outside Lower Mainland

Pest Control Company Name	Product	Description	Phone Number	Email Address	Location	Purpose Prevention / treatment
Cranbrook Pest Control	Pest Control	Services Nelson area	250- 426-9586	n/a	Cranbrook, BC	Treatment
Orkin Pest Control	Pest Control	Environmentally responsible pest control solutions	250- 828-0554	<a href="http://www.orkincanada.ca/">www.orkincanada.ca/</a>	Various locations in BC	Treatment
The Bugman Pest Control Services	Pest control	Pest control, extermination	250- 562-2884	n/a	Prince George, BC	Treatment
Old Island Pest Control	Pest control	Pest management	250-920-6267	<a href="http://oldislandpestcontrol.com/">http://oldislandpestcontrol.com/</a>	Victoria, BC	Treatment
Island Pest Control	Pest Control	Serves Mid Vancouver Island	250-758-7584	<a href="http://www.islandpestcontrol.ca/">www.islandpestcontrol.ca/</a>	Nanaimo, BC	Treatment