



Bed Bug Task Force Testimony
December 13, 2010
Judith Roettig - EVP
Chicagoland Apartment Association

The Chicagoland Apartment Association represents owners, developers and managers of rental housing in Metro Chicago with membership extending west to Rockford and south to Springfield. CAA members own and manage 130,000 rental units with a density of membership in Cook County; CAA is one of 170 local affiliates of the National Apartment Association representing 50,000 owner operators of 5.9 million rental homes.

Since 2007 NAA and its affiliates have actively worked on ways to deal with the resurgence of bed bugs with an emphasis on education of landlords, their staff, tenants and government. A national task force was immediately formed on which I served, aggregating resources, producing informational and educational documents to assist in the education of stakeholders. NAA and the National Multi Housing Council participated in the first national Bed Bug Summit and most recently testified at the Congressional Forum held this fall.

CAA continues to be proactive locally in the education of rental property owners hosting regular education sessions for our members and guests. Sessions include pest management operators, entomologists as well a practical hands on experience by property owners and managers.

Why CAA supported PA 96- 1330

In the Joint Statement on Bed Bug Control in the United States from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) it states. I quote;

“The United States is one or many countries now experiencing and alarming resurgence in the population of bed bug. Though the exact cause is not known, experts suspect the resurgence is associated with increased resistance of bud bugs to available pesticides, greater international travel, and lack of knowledge regarding control of bed bugs due to their prolonged absence and the continuing decline or elimination of effective vector/pest control programs at state and local health agencies.”

CAA in meetings with State legislators urged that a Task Force be formed to examine the opportunities for public education. PA 96-1330 states that it is in the public interest to study the increases in infestations and to make specific recommendations for addressing the growing public nuisance and to report back to the General Assembly specifically on prevention, management and control of infestation including but not limited to;

Educational materials and their availability, proper transport and disposal of infested materials, to promote the development of effective treatment methods, and increase the

awareness and knowledge among tenants, landlords, property managers and owners on prevention.

There is a plethora of educational materials and resources available. Other State Task Forces have been convened. Illinois' Task Force can benefit from work done by Virginia and Ohio both of whom utilized the expertise of Virginia Tech and Ohio State respectively. Material prepared by Dini M. Miller PhD, Virginia Tech is particularly comprehensive. I want to note that the material covers more than just rental housing and I recommend this Task Force to do the same.

In terms of transport and disposal I recommend that the Task Force examine current Illinois statues on recycling of mattresses, resale of furniture, preparation of and proper and timely disposal of infested material.

Responding to the Infestation Resurgence

There are three stakeholders in the response process; landlords, tenants and pest management operators. All three have a shared and equal responsibility plus accountability in managing infestations.

The Roles and Responsibilities of Pest Management Operators role in managing infestations

Using licensed Pest Management Operators is highly recommended. Licensed operators must have a deep knowledge of dealing with bed bug infestations. It has been suggested that a sub license be created assuring consistency in bed bug treatment. The Pest Management Industry has identified levels of infestation to aid in gauging treatment and cost; the higher the level of complexity of treatment the higher the cost. Bed Bug Central recommends a 7 step process (information included).

While self treatment is discouraged in all practically we know it happens and CAA recommends that guidelines be included in public education material. There are opportunities to take advantage of owners and residents in distress over infestation. Again this is a matter of public education – there is no silver bullet or inexpensive solution. If it seems too good to be true it probably isn't true.

The Roles and Responsibilities of Landlord and Tenants in managing infestations

Based on current information early detection, notification and treatment impacts cost. The density of units and common wall elements and the quickness of infestations spreading from one unit to adjacent units create some unique challenges for the apartment industry.

Brian Hendy, Wallick-Hendy Properties, testified recently at the Congressional Bed Bug Forum stating that his company first experienced problems in 2006. In 2009 the expense incurred for a portfolio of 12,500 units was \$400,000. Local owners surveyed by CAA indicate that bed bug related budgeted expense continues to increase annually.

The owner, property management role

If you don't have a plan make one immediately. It should include

1. Regular staff, contractor and tenant education
2. An inspection regime especially of vacant units during the make ready process
3. Accurate and detailed record keeping
4. A treatment plan partnering with a licensed pest management company
5. Talk about bed bugs regularly to reduce the stigma
6. Implement policies to reduce likelihood of infestations

The tenant's role

1. Read Educational materials and adhere to building policies on how to decrease likelihood of infestations
2. No dumpster diving – avoid second hand furniture found on the street
3. De-clutter your apartment now before an infestation occurs
4. Exercise care and awareness when traveling, visiting others, when you have guests and your work environment
5. Importance of early notification of your landlord
6. Importance of fully carrying out the treatment protocols as proscribed by the landlord and/or pest control professional

In a short survey of our members the cost range for treating infestation with early notification and tenant cooperation averaged \$300 to \$1000 per incident depending on unit size etc. Without early detection and tenant cooperation costs increased substantially depending on the number of other units requiring clover leaf inspections to \$1,200 to \$1,500 for infested unit and \$300 to \$450 for each surrounding unit (average reported is 6 to 10 units)

Government has a role as well

The problem can be managed but not solved currently. The federal government needs to study or support private study of new chemical treatments and other techniques for eradication bed bugs that are more effective and less costly than what is currently available.

I look forward to the remaining testimony so I have kept mine brief. I've noted broad areas that need to be addressed after careful examination before final recommendations are made to the General Assembly at year end 2011. Thank you and I'd be happy to answer questions at the proper time.

References

1. Virginia Tech/ State of Virginia Public Education
2. Central Ohio Bed Bug Task Force
3. National Pest Management Association (NPMA)
4. Columbus Apartment Association and Ohio State
5. National Apartment Association
6. National Multi Housing Council
7. New Jersey Apartment Association
8. Current Legislative resources (Maine and NJ)
9. Center for Diseases Control, EPA Joint Statement
10. Congressional Forum Testimony for Brian Hendy owner operator of LIHTC 12500 units
11. Member Pest Management Operators and owners of rental housing



Joint Statement on Bed Bug Control in the United States from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Introduction and Purpose

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed this document to highlight emerging public health issues associated with bed bugs (*Cimex lectularius*) in communities throughout the United States.

Bed bugs (**Photo 1**) have been common in U.S. history. Although bed bug populations dropped dramatically during the mid-20th century (1), the United States is one of many countries now experiencing an alarming resurgence in the population of bed bugs. Though the exact cause is not known, experts suspect the resurgence is associated with increased resistance of bed bugs to available pesticides, greater international and domestic travel, lack of knowledge regarding control of bed bugs due to their

prolonged absence, and the continuing decline or elimination of effective vector/pest control programs at state and local public health agencies.

In recent years, public health agencies across the country have been overwhelmed by complaints about bed bugs. An integrated approach to bed bug control involving federal, state, tribal and local public health professionals, together with pest management professionals, housing authorities and private citizens, will promote development and understanding of the best methods for managing and controlling bed bugs and preventing future infestations. Research, training and public education are critical to an effective strategy for reducing public health issues associated with the resurgence of bed bug populations.

Impact of Bed Bugs on Public Health

Although bed bugs are not known to transmit disease, they are a pest of significant public health importance. Bed bugs fit into a category of blood-sucking ectoparasites (external parasites) similar to head lice (*Pediculus humanus capitis*). Bed bugs, like head lice, feed on the blood of humans but are not believed to transmit disease. Other ectoparasites, such as body lice (*Pediculus humanus corporis*), are known to transmit several serious diseases. Differences in the biology of similar species of pests, such as body lice and head lice (or bed bugs) can greatly impact the ability of pests to transmit disease.



Photo 1. Bed Bug. Photo courtesy of Dr. Harold Harlan, Armed Forces Pest Management Board Image Library

Bed bugs cause a variety of negative physical health, mental health and economic consequences. Many people have mild to severe allergic reaction to the bites with effects ranging from no reaction to a small bite mark to, in rare cases, anaphylaxis (severe, whole-body reaction) (2). These bites (Photo 2) can also lead to secondary infections of the skin such as impetigo, ecthyma, and lymphangitis (3,4). Bed bugs may also affect the mental health of people living in infested homes. Reported effects include anxiety, insomnia and systemic reactions (1).

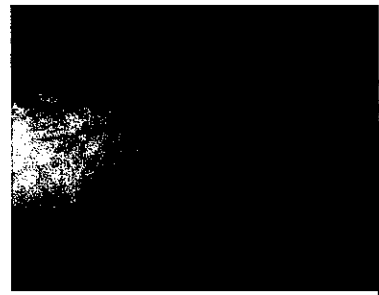


Photo 2. Skin Reaction to Bed Bug bites. Photo courtesy of Dr. Harold Harlan

Research on the public health effects of bed bugs has been very limited over the past several decades, largely due to the noted decline in bed bug populations in the latter half of the 20th century. Now that bed bug populations are rapidly increasing, additional research is needed to determine the reasons for the resurgence, the potential for bed bugs to transmit disease and their impact on public health.

Economically, bed bug infestations are also a burden on society. Although the exact dollar amount is not known, the economic losses from health care, lost wages, lost revenue and reduced productivity can be substantial. The cost of effectively eliminating bed bugs may be significantly more than the cost of eliminating other pests because bed bug control usually requires multiple visits by a licensed pest control operator and diligence on the part of those who are experiencing the infestation. Control in multi-family homes is much more difficult than in single family homes because bed bugs frequently travel between units, either by direct transport by humans or through voids in the walls. There are additional costs and complexities associated with coordinating and encouraging participation from multiple residents.

When a community starts to experience bed bug infestations, control is often more challenging because:

- Local public health departments have very limited resources to combat this problem and bed bugs frequently are not seen as a priority.
- Municipal codes struggle to identify those responsible for control of bed bug infestations. Tenants and landlords often dispute who is ultimately responsible for the cost of control and treatment. Treatment costs are high and transient populations make it difficult or impossible to assign responsibility.
- Pesticide resistance and limited control choices make treatment even more difficult. Some bed bug populations are resistant to almost all pesticides registered to treat them. Residents may use over-the-counter or homemade preparations that are ineffective (or even dangerous) and may promote further resistance.
- Pesticide misuse is also a potential public health concern. Because bed bug infestations are so difficult to control and are such a challenge to mental and economic health, residents may resort to using pesticides that are not intended for indoor residential use and may face serious health risks as a result. Additionally, residents may be tempted to apply pesticides registered for indoor use, but at greater application rates than the label allows. This results in a much greater risk of pesticide exposure for those living in the home. Pesticides must

always be used in strict accordance with their labeling to ensure that the residents and applicators are not exposed to unsafe levels of pesticide residues.

Bed Bug Biology

Bed bugs are small, flat insects that feed on the blood of sleeping people and animals. They are reddish-brown in color, wingless, and range from 1 to 7 millimeters in length. They can live several months without a blood meal.

Infestations of these insects usually occur around or near the areas where people sleep or spend a significant period of time. These areas include apartments, shelters, rooming houses, hotels, nursing homes, hospitals, cruise ships, buses, trains, and dorm rooms.

Bed bugs are experts at hiding. They hide during the day in places such as seams of mattresses, box springs, bed frames, headboards, dresser tables, cracks or crevices, behind wallpaper, and under any clutter or objects around a bed. Their small flat bodies allow them to fit into the smallest of spaces and they can remain in place for long periods of time, even without a blood meal. Bed bugs can travel over 100 feet in one night, but they tend to live within 8 feet of where people sleep.

Bed bugs are usually transported from place to place as people travel. Bed bugs travel in the seams and folds of luggage, overnight bags, folded clothes, bedding, furniture, and anywhere else where they can hide. Most people do not realize they can transport stow-away bed bugs as they travel potentially infesting new areas, including their homes, as they relocate.

One of the easiest ways to identify a bed bug infestation is by bite marks that appear on the face, neck, arms, hands, and any other body parts. However, these bite marks may take as long as 14 days to develop in some people so it is important to look for other clues when determining if bed bugs have infested an area. These signs may include the exoskeletons (**Photo 3**) of bed bugs after molting, bed bugs in the fold of mattresses and sheets, a sweet musty odor, and rusty-colored blood spots from their blood-filled fecal material that is often excreted on the mattress or nearby furniture.



Photo 3. Bed Bug Exoskeletons. Photo courtesy of Dr. Harold Harlan, Armed Forces Pest Management Board Image Library

When bed bugs bite, they inject an anesthetic and an anticoagulant that prevents a person from feeling the bite. Because bites usually occur while people are sleeping, most people do not realize they have been bitten until marks appear. The bite marks are similar to that of a mosquito or a flea - a slightly swollen and red area that may itch and be irritating. The bite marks may be random or appear in a straight line. Other symptoms of bed bug bites include insomnia, anxiety, and skin problems that arise from profuse scratching of the bites.

Everyone is at risk for bed bugs bites when visiting an infested area. However, anyone who travels frequently and shares living and sleeping quarters where other people have previously slept has an increased risk for being bitten and for spreading a bed bug infestation.

Integrated Pest Management for Bed Bugs

The current national problem with bed bugs is likely due to the convergence of three human behaviors: lack of awareness of the historical and biological link humans have with bed bugs, increased international travel, and past over-reliance on pesticides. Bed bugs are a “nest parasite” that resides in the human nest – the bedroom. Over time, bed bugs have evolved to develop resistance to many of the chemical pesticides currently used. In fact, bed bugs were widely resistant to DDT by the mid-1950s (5).

Integrated pest management (IPM) is an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of common-sense practices. IPM programs use current, comprehensive information on the life cycles of pests and their interaction with people and the environment. This information, in combination with available pest control methods, is used to manage pest damage by the most economical means, and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment.

Bed bug control is most effective when an IPM approach is implemented with diligent participation by the residents. In multi-family housing, diligent participation is also required of the building management. IPM takes advantage of all appropriate pest management options, including the judicious use of pesticides. Although bed bugs may sometimes be controlled by non-chemical means alone, this approach is often very difficult, potentially less effective, and usually more resource intensive. A comprehensive IPM program to control bed bugs may include a number of methods such as:

- using monitoring devices,
- removing clutter where bed bugs can hide,
- applying heat treatment,
- vacuuming,
- sealing cracks and crevices to remove hiding places,
- using non-chemical pesticides (such as diatomaceous earth) and
- judicious use of effective chemical pesticides

A coordinated community IPM program can alleviate both the discomfort and cost of managing bed bugs. The underlying philosophy of bed bug IPM is based on the fact that bed bug infestations will not go away without intervention. Intervention is most effective when populations are low. Such a coordinated effort could create a partnership among government, property managers, citizens, and pest management professionals to ensure an effective intervention facilitated by environmental health professionals. EPA and CDC recommend that pest management and environmental health professionals throughout the U.S. continue to use IPM strategies as they address the bed bug issue.

The Role of Government Agencies and the Public in Bed Bug Control

CDC, EPA, and other federal agencies are working closely with state, tribal and local health departments, academia and private industries to monitor and better understand the recent resurgence of bed bugs in communities throughout the United States. CDC and EPA are facilitating communications and working to expand the knowledge base among agencies and programs that may have a role in reducing bed bug populations. The two agencies are also fostering cooperation with the private sector and the public to encourage their help with this endeavor.

CDC is partnering with experts in the areas of medicine, entomology, epidemiology and environmental toxicology to better understand the resurgence of bed bugs and the methods and tools that are needed for effective bed bug control. CDC will provide timely information on emerging trends in bed bug control with the goal of developing national strategies to reduce bed bug populations. CDC recognizes that very limited research has been conducted on bed bugs during the past several decades and encourages increased bed bug research to determine the causes of the resurgence, the most effective methods of control and the potential for bed bugs to transmit disease.

EPA's primary responsibility is the dual statutory charges to ensure that the pesticides with public health uses are (1) safe and (2) effective against the pests on their labels. EPA carries out this responsibility by conducting rigorous scientific screening of pesticides and imposing limits through registration of pesticides to ensure that when used to control pests, they do not harm people or the environment.

EPA is working to ensure that pest management professionals and the public have access to the latest information on effective bed bug control tools. EPA realizes that certain bed bug populations in communities across the nation are becoming increasingly resistant to many of the existing pesticides. EPA is actively working with industry and researchers to identify new compounds (or new uses of existing compounds) to control bed bugs. In addition, EPA is working to educate the general public, pest professionals, and public health officials about bed bug biology and IPM, which is critical to long-term bed bug control.

Other federal agencies are also involved in research and education about bed bugs. For example, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is funding research on bed bug monitoring and control in low-income, multi-family housing, along with educating public housing authorities and other housing industry groups about bed bug identification and control. Health departments can use local HUD field office personnel or local housing officials as resources when addressing bed bug issues in multi-family housing.

State, tribal, and local government agencies and health departments play a critical role in protecting the public from bed bugs. Public health departments serve on the front lines, providing information on prevention and control of bed bugs through various programs to the public and private sector.

The public, together with their local health agencies, must be involved in the control and management of bed bug populations and must be provided with the knowledge of best practices to prevent and control bed bug infestations. In some cases, a coordinated community control program may be necessary to reduce or eliminate bed bug populations.

Additional Information

For additional information about bed bugs and their control, please see the following print references:

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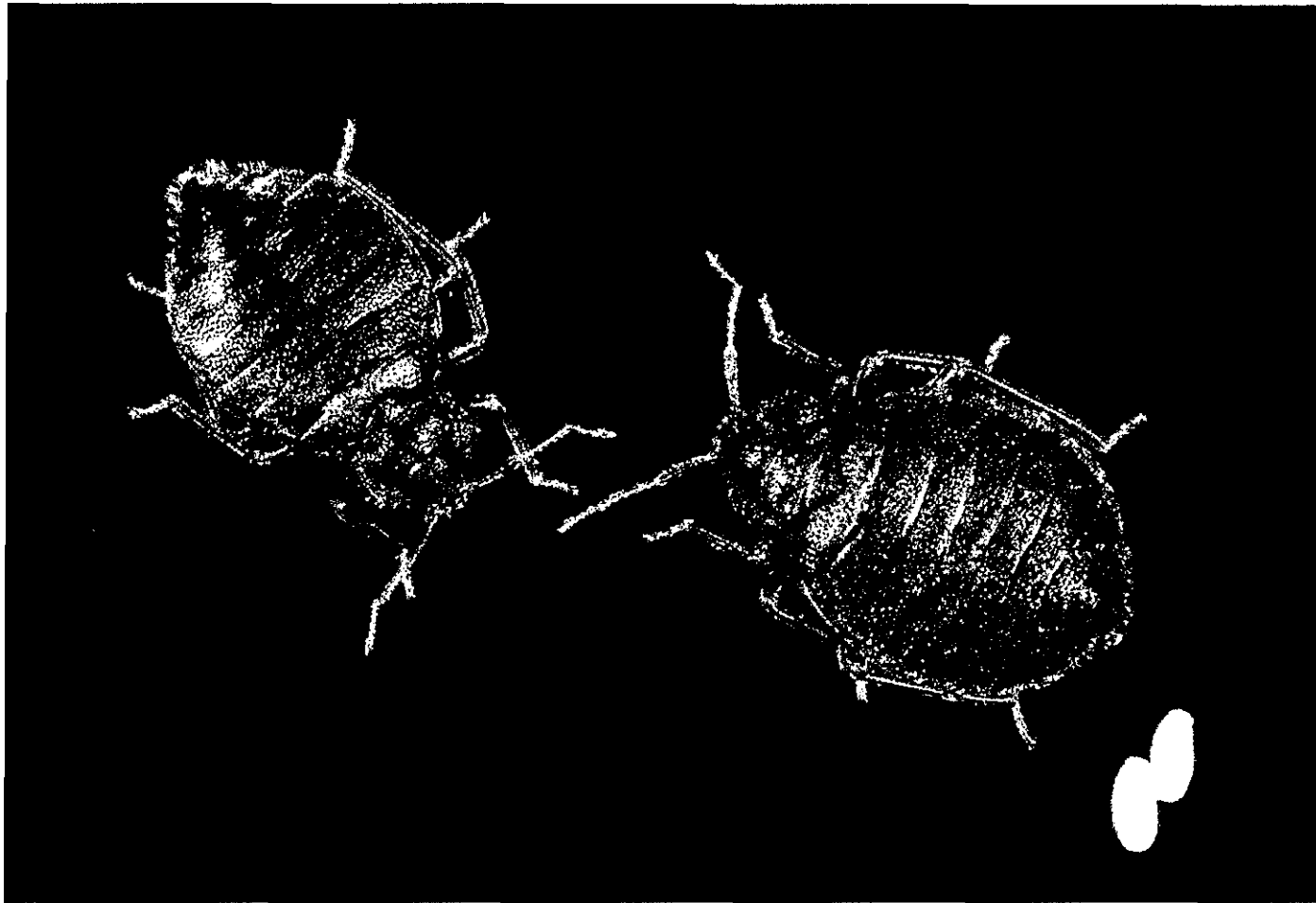
For additional information about bed bugs and their control, please see the following Web sites:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:
<http://epa.gov/pesticides/controlling/bedbugs.html>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/Topics/bedbugs.htm>
- Bed Bug Hotel Safety:
<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/pl/docs/bedbughotel.pdf>
- Central Ohio Bed Bug Task Force Information: <http://centralohiobedbugs.org/>
- Cornell Bed Bug Guide:
http://www.nysipm.cornell.edu/publications/bb_guidelines/
- Harvard School Public Health Bed Bug Management:
<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/bedbugs/>
- National Pest Management Association: <http://www.pestworld.org/for-consumers/pest-frequently-asked-questions/bedbug-faq>
- National Pesticides Information Center: <http://npic.orst.edu/pest/bedbug.html>
- New Jersey Bed Bug Fact Sheet:
<http://www.nj.gov/health/eoh/phss/documents/bedbugfactsheet.pdf>
- University of Kentucky Bed Bug Fact Sheet:
<http://www.ca.uky.edu/entomology/entfacts/entfactpdf/ef636.pdf>
- University of Minnesota Bed Bug Information for Travelers:
<http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/housingandclothing/M1196.html>

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1. Anderson A, Leffler K. Bed bug infestation in the news: a picture of an emerging public health problem in the United States. *Journal of Environmental Health*. 2008;70(9):24-7, 52-3.
2. Thomas I, Kihiczak GC, Schwartz RA. Bed bug bites: a review. *International Journal of Dermatology*, 2004;43:430-3.
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5. Pinto LJ, Cooper RA, Kraft SK. Bed bug handbook: the complete guide to bed bugs and their control. Mechanicsville, MD: Pinto and Associates, Inc.; 2007.

Battling Bed Bugs: A Shared Responsibility



National Pest Management Association Inc.
INTERNATIONAL

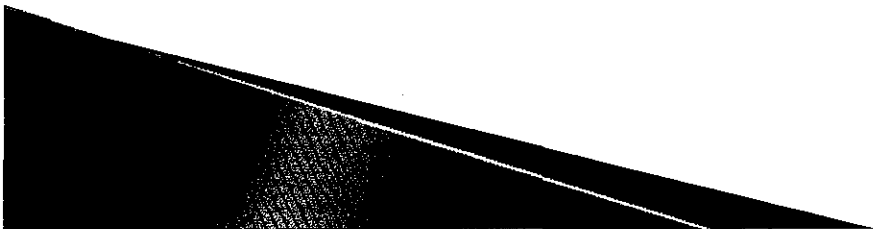
Experiencing Bed Bug Resurgence

Bed bugs are NOT only found in locations where people sleep.

Where are pest professionals finding bed bugs?

- ▶ Apartments/Condos – 89%
- ▶ Single family homes – 88%
- ▶ College dorms – 35%
- ▶ Homeless shelters – 31%
- ▶ Nursing homes – 24%
- ▶ Office buildings – 17%
- ▶ Schools – 10%

Source: NPMA/UK Bugs Without Borders Survey





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Knowledge for the Commonwealth

REGIONAL IPM CENTERS: SOUTHERN NORTHEASTERN NORTH CENTRAL WESTERN



What is IPM?

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[Alerts, Surveys, & Advisories](#)

[Virginia Pest Info & ID](#)

[Weather & Forecasting](#)

[Funding Opportunities](#)

The IPM Concept

[Definition of Integrated Pest Management \(IPM\)](#)

[Origin of the term, IPM](#)

[Development of the IPM concept](#)

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Definition of Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

As defined in the *National IPM Roadmap*, IPM is a long-standing, science-based, decision-making process that identifies and reduces risks from pests and pest management related strategies. It coordinates the use of pest biology, environmental information, and available technology to prevent unacceptable levels of pest damage by the most economical means, while posing the least possible risk to people, property, resources, and the environment. IPM provides an effective strategy for managing pests in all arenas from developed residential and public areas to wild lands. IPM serves as an umbrella to provide an effective, all encompassing, low-risk approach to protect resources and people from pests.

A **pest** may be an insect, weed, plant pathogen or vertebrate that reduces crop yields, negatively impacts animal or human health or causes structural damage.

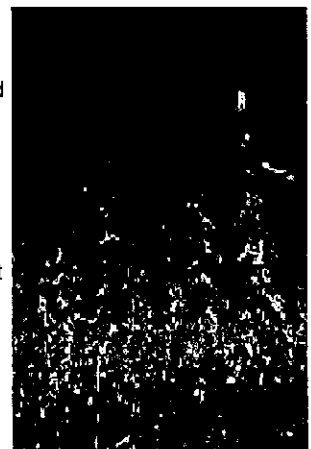
See the [Compendium of IPM Definitions--A Collection of IPM Definitions and their Citations in Worldwide IPM Literature](#) for more on this subject.

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Origin of the term, IPM

The phrase, integrated pest [population] management, was used in entomology literature in 1967. It was based on a concept termed integrated control, which had been previously developed by entomologists. The exact term "integrated pest management" and the IPM acronym entered the public arena and found its way into mainstream scientific literature in 1972 in both, a paper from President Nixon's administration to congress and in a report from the Council on Environmental Quality entitled *Integrated Pest Management*.

IPM is often mistakenly associated only with entomology and insect pests. However, in contrast to entomology, plant pathology has, since its beginning, approached plant pests through multiple, or integrated, strategies. The terminology traditionally used by plant pathologists was typically "tactics". These traditionally-used tactics included rotation, pathogen-free seed, and genetic host resistance. However, in 1975 the federal USDA Cooperative Extension Service (CES) funded IPM programs in every state and at this point the term, IPM, became commonly used in plant pathology literature also.



Kogan in the journal article, *IPM History*, details the components of the acronym, IPM, as it was generally accepted during the time of its entry into scientific and public nomenclature in the early 1970's, as:

1. "integration meant the harmonious use of multiple methods to control single pests as well as the impacts of multiple pests"

2. *pests* were any organism detrimental to humans, including invertebrate and vertebrate animals, pathogens, and weeds
3. *management* referred to a set of decision rules based on ecological principles and economic and social considerations

Kogan also noted that IPM is a multidisciplinary (e.g. entomology, plant pathology, weed science, etc.) effort.

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Development of the IPM concept



Before World War II and the accompanying widespread use of organo-synthetic chemicals agricultural pest problems were commonly managed using cultural practices and information on pest lifecycles and biology. However, development and use of organo-synthetic chemicals changed the focus to pest management by chemical means.

During the late 1950s and early 1960s increasing levels of chemical resistance in insect populations and pesticide injury to non-target organisms became evident and caused concern. These problems were brought about by reliance on insecticides for insect control. Entomologists began to develop and foster the concept of IPM. Ecological issues relating to the use of pesticides were also emerging during this time and also highlighted the need for a re-evaluation of reliance on chemical pest control. Meanwhile new developments in computer science, along with the emerging sciences of operations research, systems analysis, and modeling, allowed more sophisticated, multi-level, integrated approaches to pest management to emerge. The concept of IPM began to gain interest among researchers, extension

personnel, agricultural stakeholders, the federal government and the public.

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2. Jacobsen, B.J. 1997. Role of Plant Pathology in Integrated Pest Management. Pages 373-391 in Annual Review of Phytopathology, vol. 35. APS, St. Paul, MN.
3. Kogan, M. 1998. Integrated Pest Management: Historical Perspectives and Contemporary Developments. Pages 234-270 in Annual Review of Entomology, vol. 43, Annual Reviews Inc., Palo Alto, CA.
4. NSF Center for Integrated Pest Management. CIPM History. 21 February 2001. Accessed 9 November 2005 <http://cipm.ncsu.edu/history.cfm>
5. Stern, V.M., Smith, R.F. van den Bosch, R., and Hagen, K.S. 1959. The Integrated Control Concept. *Hilgardia* 29: 81-101.
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E. Bush, last updated 12/19/05

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College of
Agriculture and Life Sciences

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STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Paul Wenning, Chair, Franklin County Board of Health
 Dr. Susan Jones, The Ohio State University
 Sue Carpenter, Columbus Code Enforcement
 Andrew Christman, Ohio Pest Management Association
 Matt Beal, Ohio Department of Agriculture

Question	Answer:
Do bed bugs spread disease?	NO! Bed bugs are not known to spread disease while feeding.
I have bed bugs in my apartment. What should I do? <i>or</i> I moved into my apartment a few days ago and now I'm being eaten alive by bed bugs. What can I do?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish proof that you told your landlord about the bed bugs by sending him a certified letter asking him to remedy the condition within 30 days. <i>You must have written proof that you notified the landlord.</i> 2. If the landlord refuses to hire a licensed exterminator after you have contacted him, call 2-1-1 and file a complaint. <i>or</i> <p><u>If you live in Columbus:</u> Contact Columbus Code Enforcement by calling 3-1-1 and request;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A confirmation number to schedule an inspection. • Ask about other bed bug complaints in your apartment building. If there were other complaints before you moved into your apartment (or house), you can argue that you did NOT cause the bed bug problem, and that the landlord should have known about the bed bugs and notified you. <p><u>If you live in Franklin County, but outside of Columbus and Worthington:</u> Call the Franklin County Board of Health at 614-462-3928. Ask if there have been other complaints about your apartment building. If there were other complaints before you moved into your apartment (or house), you can argue that you did NOT cause the bed bug problem, and that the landlord should have known about the bed bugs.</p> <p><u>If you live in the City of Worthington:</u> Call the City Office at 614-431-2424. Ask if there have been other complaints about your apartment building. If there were other complaints before you moved into your apartment (or house), you can argue that you did NOT cause the bed bug problem, and that the landlord should have known about the bed bugs.</p> <p>You may want to call the Better Business Bureau at 614- 486-6336.</p> 3. Research. Ask your neighbors if they have bed bugs or if they know of anybody else in the building that does. If 10 percent or more of the apartments are infested, Columbus Code Enforcement and the Franklin County Board of Health can force the landlord to hire an exterminator.
Can the landlord charge me for the extermination?	<p>Yes, especially if your home is the only infested unit in the building. If you and the landlord fail to agree, then get help by contacting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Columbus Urban League 614-257-6300 (Housing Department) • Community Mediation Service 614-228-7191



STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

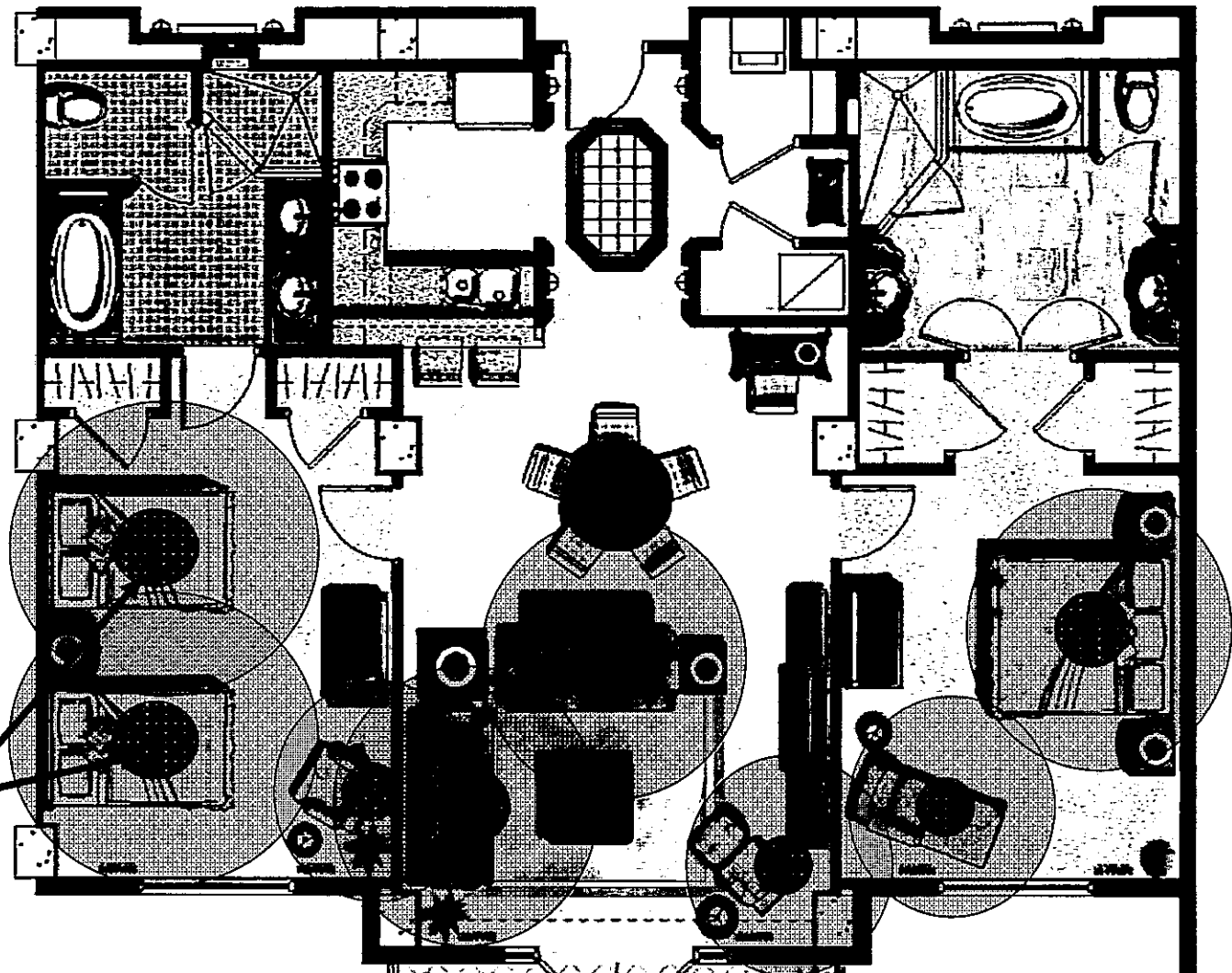
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 Matt Beal, Ohio Department of Agriculture

Question	Answer:
My landlord has the maintenance person spray for bed bugs. Can he do that?	No. Only a licensed exterminator experienced with bed bug control can eradicate your home of the pests. Some landlords have maintenance staff who are trained and licensed to kill bed bugs and other pests, but that's rare. If the landlord isn't using a licensed exterminator, call 2-1-1.
I have an elderly relative who has bed bugs, and they can't afford to hire an exterminator. Is there any money to help them?	No public agency has money to help pay for bed bug treatment at this time. Try talking to your exterminator about scheduling a payment plan.
My landlord had me go to the hardware store and buy over-the-counter insecticides to kill bed bugs. It doesn't work. Isn't he supposed to get an exterminator for me?	<p>YES. Very few over-the-counter insecticides are effective for killing bed bugs. The ones that do kill bed bugs only work if you spray them directly on the bugs. They do not kill bed bugs that are hiding behind the baseboard or under the carpet.</p> <p>Total release aerosol insecticides (a.k.a. "bug bombs," "flea spray") will kill a small number of the bed bugs, but they may also scatter the bugs through your home.</p> <p>Only a licensed exterminator experienced with bed bug control will be able to rid your home of these pests.</p> <p>If your landlord refuses to hire an exterminator, file a complaint by calling 2-1-1.</p>
My elderly, disabled mother has bed bugs. We can pay for the exterminator, but we can't move her furniture. Could someone help us?	Call 2-1-1. If you or family members belong to a church, speak with the minister about helping you.
My tenants moved out and left the unit infested with bed bugs.	Talk to your lawyer. If you cannot afford a lawyer; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquaint yourself with the Ohio Revised Code 1923 & 5321 • Call Columbus Urban League at 614-257-6300
Can I get out of my lease if there are bed bugs in my unit?	No. Talk to a lawyer. They may be able to help you negotiate a 'Release' from the lease contract.
How do I prevent taking the bed bug with me when I move from my unit?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You do not have to throw clothing away that you can wash in hot water and dry in a hot dryer for 30 minutes. • Check the nooks & crannies of all furniture. They may be safe to move if you clean them thoroughly. • If you want to keep your mattresses and sofa, you should have them treated by a licensed exterminator just before you move. Call an exterminator for a cost quotation. • Store personal items like photo albums in airtight containers. • Completely destroy anything that you throw away.

Where bed bugs live

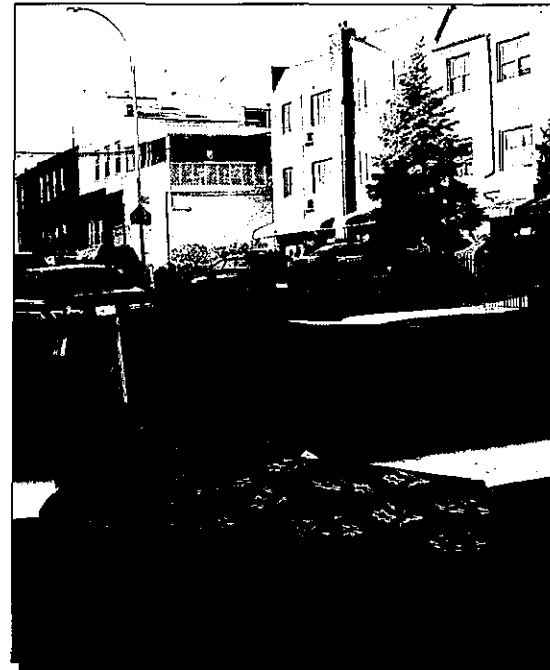
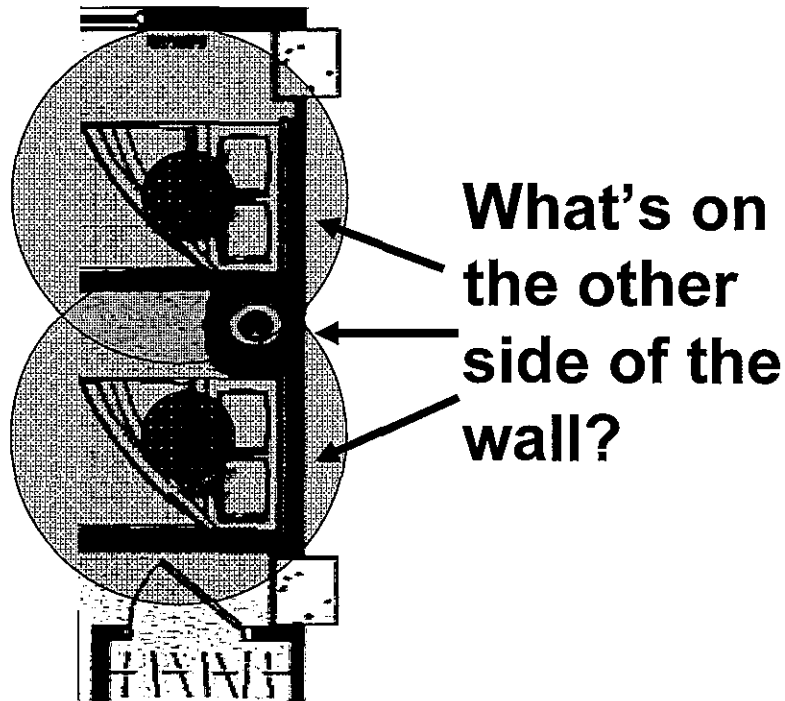
Beds,
sofas,
bedside
tables,
recliners,
picture
frames...

● = Hot Spot

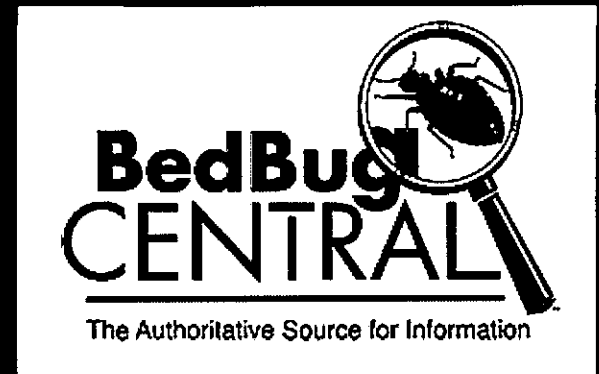


How do bed bugs spread?

- Through walls along wires and pipes
- On anything coming from an infested unit (furniture, backpacks, laundry...)



BedBug Central



- **7 step process**
 - Estimate
 - Verification (bed bugs present?)
 - Intensive treatment
 - Follow-up visits (charged individually; charged 40% if no access on day of appointment)
 - Control (a 14 day period of no bugs, no bites)
 - Elimination (45 days of control)
 - Services plan (90 service after elimination is achieved)
- **Dedicated administrator who keep the files on each unit and handle all appointments**