

CHS Group, LLC

Bed Bug Policy

INTRODUCTION

Bed bug infestations have increased across the United States by a whopping 500% in the past few years with New York, New Jersey, Ohio, and Hawaii leading the pack of states who are experiencing major challenges. Bed bugs can come into the home through luggage, furniture, bedding, and boxes that are moved from home to home or from a hotel, etc. Used furniture, especially bed frames and mattresses, are of greatest risk of harboring them and their eggs which makes this pest particularly troublesome for people who have mental impairments as they typically have second-hand household furniture and other household items.

Adult bed bugs are 1/4 inch long (or the size of an apple seed) and have flat rusty-brown-colored oval shaped bodies. However after feeding on a blood meal, their bodies can swell to a deeper red brown and up to 3/8 inch long. All bed bugs including newly hatched nymphs can be easily seen with the naked human eye.

Bed bugs often hide in places that tend to be close to where their hosts sleep or spend a lot of sedentary time such as in crevices and cracks of the bed frame or the mattress; in furniture, behind the skirting, behind the wallpaper. During the initial early stages of infestation, bed bugs tend to congregate mostly in the seams, tufts and folds of a mattress and then move to the open crevices of the entire bed.

As the bed bug infestations grow larger, the room may carry a distinctive and unpleasant almond-like smell, and they can be anywhere in the home including furnishings, cracks in any wood around the home or electrical boxes. They can also be in found in cloth wall hangings, curtains pleats and loose wall paper plus cracks in wall and ceiling plaster. You should also be able to spot the bed bugs during the day as the infestation increases.

Bed bugs are generally active at night and feed primarily on the blood of humans while they are sleeping. Their feeding activity often peaks with in a couple of hours before sunrise. However bed bugs will also feed at other times if that is when they are given the opportunity.

Attracted by the warmth of the hosts and the carbon dioxide (CO₂) that is given off during sleep, bed bugs feed by piercing the skin with two tubes, one that injects the host with its saliva, which contain anticoagulant and anesthetics while the other sucks up the blood. They usually feed for about 3 to 10 minutes before withdrawing to their hiding places. The host that is being bitten usually do not feel the bites until some minutes or hours later where indication of the bites become itchy.

Bed Bug Factoids

- The typical life span of a bed bug is about 12 to 18 months.
- Bed bugs are able to live for up to 9 months without feeding on a host.
- Female bed bugs can lay up to 300 eggs over their lifetime.
- Bed bugs eggs hatch within 2 weeks and takes about another 3 to 10 weeks to reach maturity depending upon the temperature and availability of food.
- Bed bugs are **not** known to carry disease but their bites can cause allergic reactions in some people.
- Eradication of bed bugs can be costly and very challenging. The home owner must be diligent.
- Pets generally do NOT spread bed bugs. Unlike fleas, bed bugs do not live on a host.
- Bed bugs walk on a host, but do not hop on them

PROCEDURE for residential clientele

- CHS will not accept a new client with a known case of bed bugs until the residence has been fumigated and deemed 'bed-bug free' by a licensed exterminator. It is imperative for CHS managers to inquire of the person's bed bug status prior to service delivery.
- If CHS becomes aware a client who is currently served by CHS has a new or suspected infestation (CHS will initiate the authentication), the following individuals will be notified and develop a action plan within 24 hours: 1) the funding source case manager, 2) guardian and 3) landlord (if applicable). The Case manager, guardian/family member and CHS will meet as soon as possible to develop a plan of action.
- Each situation may dictate a different action plan, however, CHS staff's primary concern is the clients health and safety, the staff's health and safety and any other people/clients who become exposed due to people traveling from the infested home.
- Until the clients home is bed bug free, all efforts will be made to prep the residence for professional pest treatment. Prepping can be done by:
 - Purchasing prepping service from an outside source (professional)
 - Client/family/guardian prep the residence (usually this entails destroying upholstered furniture, mattresses, clothing, etc.)
 - Client preps the residence through staff's verbal guidance.
 - Staff can verbally prompt client to place bug-free items in a plastic bag, launder clothing, throw out items that might be infested, etc.)
 - Staff can verbally prompt client to vacuum floors and upholstered furniture.
 - Staff can verbally prompt or dust residence with specialized powder (client must purchase) in an effort to kill pests
 - Staff can assist client to move to another, temporary location
 - Staff can teach/prompt client on how to prevent future outbreaks of bed-bugs
- Staff will not reenter the premises until the home is deemed bed bug free by a licensed exterminator. At this time normal staffing services may resume.

LIMITATIONS

- CHS staff will not transport improperly enclosed client possessions (or possessions that have not been deemed, bed-bug free) in their vehicle or the agency vehicle
- Only staff trained in bed bug protocol will prep a home for fumigation and the client will need to purchase this service
- CHS staff will not remove or dispose of any client furniture, mattresses, or other large possessions. Professional movers must be recruited.
- CHS staff will not encase mattresses or any other large items in plastic
- CHS is not responsible for hotel stays or laundry/cleaning fees
- CHS will not be held responsible to provide pest control for a staff's residence
- CHS will not require a staff person work with a client who must remain in a bed bug invested home. In this event, the staff may opt for another assignment. If no other agreeable assignment exists, the staff will be required to sign a "Shift Refusal" form.
- If no staff are available to work with the client who must remain in a bed bug invested home, CHS may submit an termination notice effective in an agreeable timeframe.

Procedure for day program clientele

- 1) Identify the bug as a bed bug. Check consumers for bites.
- 2) Determining if there is an infestation & following guidelines

Finding three or less bugs the process will go as follows.

- Contact a professional to check area:
- CHS will continue operating as normal in the event there is no evidence of bugs, and will take the following precautions to rule out bed bugs.
 - o Set up CO2 traps and sticky traps 3 or 4 times within a 5 day period (Dry ice, container with a top, talcum powder).
 - o Spread a light dusting of fossil shell powder around perimeter with a puffer duster tool where bed bug was discovered.
 - o Examine traps daily to identify spread of bed bugs.
- Programs will not close in the event of 3 or less bugs found.

Bed Bug Infestation: Defined as more than 3 bed bugs found.

- Contact a professional & follow protocol for ridding the area of bed bugs
 - Discuss options of closing programs.
 - Contact providers, CMH, and Parents to notify
- 3) -CHS Staff Response: CHS will work quickly to mitigate the situation by cleaning the work place to prevent further spread. CHS management and direct care staff will be responsible for working regular scheduled shifts to clean and prep areas where bed bugs have been identified per guidelines from a licensed pest control professional.
 - CHS and Providers will be honest and transparent about the situation with their employees to warn them of the risk.
 - CHS will encourage employees and providers to advise them if bed bugs have been found.
 - CHS will encourage consumers to use brown paper bags for their lunches and only bring 1 bag of personal items to program.
 - CHS staff will be provided handouts and professional lectures regarding pest.
 - When bed bugs have been identified in staff or consumers residence, CHS will take the following precautions:
 - o Staff and or consumer will be asked to change all of cloths upon entering CHS.
 - o Cloths will be taken and washed in hot water and then dried.
 - o Cloths will be taken out of dryer and folded, placed in an appropriate area. To be held for the following day for program.
 - o Repeat process, until residence can provide information regarding treatment or lack of bugs found.