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The Residential Tenancies Branch

FACT SHEET

Bed Bug Removal – Information for Tenants

Talk to your landlord immediately if you believe you have bed bugs. You can also talk to an exterminator. If you have a confirmed infestation, work together with your landlord to solve the problem.

The most common method used to deal with bed bugs is Integrated Pest Management (IPM). This method uses different techniques and products with the least risk to your health and the environment. Sometimes, the exterminator will apply a pesticide spray. You may need to do the following:

- **Vacuum** with a nozzle attachment to capture the bed bugs and their eggs. Vacuum all crevices on your mattress, bed frame, the baseboards and any objects close to the bed. You must vacuum daily and empty the vacuum right away. You should empty the vacuum into a plastic bag and take that bag out of the building immediately.
- **Wash** all your bedding in the hottest water possible. Put it in the dryer for at least 20 minutes on the highest setting. Consider covering your pillow and mattress with a bed bug proof cover.
- **Get rid of** all unnecessary clutter. Remove old newspapers, magazines, garbage etc.
- **Prepare** for the pesticide spray by removing everything from dressers, drawers, closets, shelves, cupboards and countertops. If the bugs have infested your dresser or closet, wash all clothing in hot water and dry for at least 20 minutes. Immediately place them in a sealed plastic bag for storage until your unit is clear of infestation.
- **Provide** access to all baseboards, keep floor clear, and move all furniture two feet from the wall.
- **Prevent** future bed bug problems by asking your landlord to seal cracks and crevices between baseboards, floors, and walls with caulking.
- **Ask your landlord to repair** or remove peeling wallpaper. Tighten loose light switch covers. Seal any openings where pipes, wires or other utilities come into your unit (pay special attention to shared walls between units).
- **Monitor** daily by setting out glue boards or sticky tape (masking tape works well) to catch bed bugs.

- **Examine** closely any items that you are bringing into your home. **Furniture put out by someone else for garbage pick-up could be infested with bed bugs. Use caution.**

After your unit has been treated using IPM and/or pesticides, it is normal to see some living bed bugs in your unit. If you continue to see large numbers of bed bugs after two weeks, contact your landlord.

NOTE: As a tenant, you must help your landlord to get rid of the pest problem by doing the preparation they ask you to do. If you can't prepare for the treatment by yourself, talk with your landlord.

If you don't prepare your unit or let the exterminator in for a scheduled treatment the problem may become worse. If this causes the landlord to lose money, you may be held responsible.

This fact sheet is only a brief explanation. For more information see our Fact Sheet **Bed Bugs – Rights and Responsibilities of Landlords and Tenants.**