

BED BUGS INFORMATION & CLEAN UP



From the Pennsylvania Department of Health Website....

BED BUGS FACT SHEET

1. **What are Bed Bugs?** - Bed bugs are small insects that feed on human blood. They are usually active at night when people are sleeping. Adult bed bugs have flat, rusty-red-colored oval bodies. About the size of an apple seed, they are big enough to be easily seen, but often hide in cracks in furniture, floors, or walls. When bed bugs feed, their bodies swell and become brighter red. They can live for several months without food or water.
2. **What does a Bed Bug bite feel and look like?** - Most bed bug bites are initially painless, but later turn into large, itchy skin welts. These welts do not have a red spot in the center like flea bites.
3. **Are Bed Bug bites dangerous?** - Although bed bugs are a nuisance, they are not known to spread disease.
4. **How does a room become infested with Bed Bugs?** - In most cases, people carry bed bugs into their homes unknowingly, in luggage, furniture, bedding, or clothing. Bed bugs may also travel through small crevices and cracks in walls and floors.
5. **How do I know if my home is infested with Bed Bugs?** - You may notice itchy skin welts. You may also see the bed bugs themselves, small bloodstains from crushed insects, or dark spots from their droppings. It is often hard to see them because they hide in or near beds, other furniture, and in cracks.
6. **How do I get rid of Bed Bugs?** – A licensed pest control professional is necessary to get rid of bed bugs.

If you suspect you have an infestation, CONTACT CCHA IMMEDIATELY, by calling (570) 748-2954. Failing to report the problem puts other tenants and CCHA Staff at risk. CCHA will provide information, instructions, and extermination services for tenants who promptly report infestations.

Bed Bug Infestations are very difficult to eliminate. Tenants must be diligent and follow instructions to successfully eliminate infestations.

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Bed Bug Infestations are very difficult to eliminate. Tenants must be diligent and follow these instructions to successfully eliminate infestations. You will be notified of your Extermination Service date at least 3 days in advance.

Prior to Extermination Service:

1. Do not allow guests inside your apartment and avoid common areas of the building.
2. Reduce clutter. Place non-essential infested items in tightly sealed plastic bags and dispose in trash. Never place unsealed infested items in the common areas or the garbage rooms.
3. Vacuum and/or steam clean all fabrics and carpets. Vacuum all other surfaces thoroughly. Tightly seal the vacuum bag in a plastic bag and dispose in trash.
4. Wash clothes, towels and bedding at a commercial laundry in hot water and dry thoroughly at high temperature (two cycles preferred). **DO NOT USE CCHA LAUNDRY FACILITIES;** the temperatures are not hot enough. Tightly seal laundered items in plastic bags to prevent re-infestation.

Day of Extermination Service:

1. Move everything off the floor and vacuum thoroughly. Tightly seal the vacuum bag in a plastic bag and dispose in trash.
2. Make sure all baseboards are cleared and accessible.
3. Tenants must vacate their apartment for a minimum of 4 hours. You may become ill if you enter sooner. CCHA shall not be held responsible for sickness resulting from tenant's disregard.
4. Do not remove mattress or box spring covers. You will be charged for replacements.

Following Extermination Service:

Tenants will be notified of subsequent treatment dates. Follow these same steps to prepare every time. Severe infestations may require multiple treatments.

Tenants who do not follow these instructions or repeatedly become re-infested may be charged for their extermination service.