

## **NOTICE TO RESIDENTS ABOUT BEDBUGS**

A.R.S. § 33-1319, which was enacted by the Arizona legislature in 2011, requires landlords to provide educational materials about bedbugs to new and existing residents.

Although we sincerely hope that you will never experience any incidents of bedbugs, we also recognize that it has become a common occurrence throughout the United States. Bedbugs attack rich and poor and are increasingly found in expensive hotels, department stores, hospitals, schools, airports and other locations where people gather, in addition to apartments.

While it may not ever be possible to completely eliminate the potential for bedbugs, there are things that residents can do to minimize the risk and help us respond promptly and appropriately when there is a bedbug infestation. If you have any questions at all about bedbugs, please feel free to contact staff or obtain additional information through pest control services.

### **How Can I Recognize Bedbugs?**

Bedbugs are small insects that feed mainly on human blood. A newly hatched bedbug is semi-transparent, light tan in color and about the size of a poppy seed. Adult bedbugs are flat, have rusty-red-colored oval bodies and are about the size of an apple seed.

Bedbugs are often easily confused with other small household insects, including carpet beetles, spider beetles, and newly hatched cockroaches.

Generally bedbugs are identified by their markings, droppings and eggs, although they are also easily visible to the human eye. They are usually found in mattress seams and tufts, sheets, pillowcases and upholstered furniture. They can also be found in cracks and crevices of furniture, on baseboards of walls and even on children's stuffed animals.

Bed bugs are most active when we sleep. They crawl onto exposed skin, inject a mild anesthetic and suck up a small amount of blood. Most people never feel the actual bite.

Some people do not react to bed bug bites, but for those who do, bite marks may appear within minutes or days, usually where skin is exposed during sleep. They can be small bumps or large itchy welts. The welts usually go away after a few days. Because the bites may resemble mosquito or other insect bites, a bump or welt alone does not mean there are bedbugs.

### **Where Do I Look to See If I Have Bed Bugs?**

- Look for bed bugs, bloodstains, droppings and eggs, primarily in an area 10-20 feet around where you sleep or sit. That's the distance a bedbug will usually travel.
- Check the top and bottom seams, tufts and any rips in the covers of mattresses and box springs.
- Look underneath the bed and along the bed frame and headboards.

- Check cracks and crevices of furniture, windows and doorframes.
- Check walls and wall hangings and in electrical outlets and light switches.

### **Are Bed Bugs Disease Carriers?**

No. Although bedbugs and their bites are a nuisance they are not known to spread disease. Most welts heal in a few days. Using an anti-itching ointment usually helps, but if bites become infected persons should consult their physicians.

### **What Can I Do If I Have Bedbugs?**

If you believe you have bed bugs notify your landlord immediately. Anyone can get bed bugs, but major infestations occur only when they are not promptly reported and treated.

Do not attempt to treat bed bug infestations yourself. Bedbug infestations usually require the use of pesticides and only licensed pest control operators can legally administer these pesticides. Foggers and bug bombs are not effective against them.

Once you have reported the possibility of bedbugs, management will arrange for an inspection and, if the bedbugs are verified, for treatment. Prior to the start of the treatment, you will be given detailed instructions about how to prepare for the treatment. You must fully comply with those instructions because any failure to comply may result in ineffective treatment and recurrence of the infestation.

After your apartment is treated thoroughly clean your carpets, floors, bed frames and furniture, and dispose of any dead bugs, blood stains, eggs or droppings with hot soapy water. Wash all items showing bedbug stains – and any items which you suspect may have been infested - in hot water (140 degrees F) and dry on the highest setting for at least twenty minutes. After drying store items in sealed plastic bags until you are sure you have gotten rid of the bedbugs.

Enclose any infested mattresses and box springs in a cover that is labeled “allergen rated,” “for dust mites,” or “for bed bugs” for at least one year. Periodically check for rips and openings and tape these up.

If you see any signs of a reinfestation, notify management immediately so that additional treatments can be scheduled.

### **How Can I Prevent Bed Bugs?**

Bedbugs enter homes by hitchhiking on used furniture, luggage and clothing and traveling along connecting pipes and wiring. Because the most common ways that bedbugs are introduced into apartment communities are through used mattresses and other used furniture there are several steps residents can take to prevent a bedbug infestation:

- Do not to bring used bed frames, mattresses, box springs or upholstered furniture into the community.

- Do not take furniture that has been discarded by another person into your apartment.
- Check all used or rented furniture for bedbugs.
- Eliminate clutter. The more clutter there is in a unit the more places bedbugs have to hide.
- When traveling inspect the bed and furniture. Keep suitcases off the floor and bed and inspect them before you leave.
- If you suspect that you have been around bedbugs immediately wash and dry all of your clothing on hot settings or store it in a sealed plastic bag until you can.
- Advise management if you have cracks and crevices so that we can caulk them to try to prevent bedbugs from entering.