

# Fact Sheet

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## **Integrated Pest Management to Control Bed Bugs**

The most effective program for eliminating bed bugs is one that utilizes Integrated Pest Management (IPM). IPM is the use of all possible methods in a logical combination that minimizes risk of pesticide exposure, safeguards the environment, and maximizes effectiveness. IPM is designed to empower owners and managers to make the best and most cost effective decisions about managing and eliminating pest, and to establish accountabilities and responsibilities for owners, staff and tenants. Pesticides alone should not be used to control bed bugs.

### **Integrated Pest Management includes:**

- Inspecting infested areas, plus surrounding living spaces
- Correctly identifying the pest and understanding the behavior patterns
- Documenting the dates and the locations where the pests are found
- Instructing and assisting tenants in the proper preparation of individual units
- Cleaning all items within a bed bug infested living area
- Reducing clutter by disposing of unused items or store in lockers to eliminate hiding spots
- Eliminating bed bug living areas
- Physically removing bed bugs by vacuuming and cleaning
- Hiring Licensed Pest Control Operators to properly apply pesticides
- Providing follow up inspections and retreating when necessary
- Educating all the stakeholders (tenants, site staff, managers, owners, and service providers) that they have a role in the successful treatment and prevention of bed bugs.

### **Benefits of IPM**

- Provides a proactive approach that results in a sustainable, environmentally healthy process focusing on reducing the number of pest control services and pesticide usage
- Educates, trains and communicates to owners, staff and tenants on the issues and signs, and proactive prevention measures
- Minimizes the need for full-building pest control treatment and disruption to tenants
- Increases the levels of tenant satisfaction and improves quality of life
- Encourages tenant involvement through identification, treatment and prevention
- Helps ensure proper preparation is completed before treatment, which will ensure treatment is successful
- Builds confidence and trust
- Improves public image as a responsive and responsible landlord
- Refers tenants to credible sources for assistance
- Ensures due diligence in addressing pest control issues.