

Fact Sheet

October 2008

Top 10 Tips for Landlords to Keep Bed Bugs Away

- 1. Be Proactive**
Provide information to tenants. Know what to do if you get a report of bed bugs. Train staff on bed bugs identification and management.
- 2. Conduct quarterly inspections**
Be vigilant if your building has been infested with bed bugs. The frequency of inspections may be adjusted based on level of infestation. Monitor units that may be heavily infested.
- 3. Work with your tenants**
Don't blame your tenants. Anyone can get bed bugs.
- 4. Plan ahead**
Give tenants sufficient time to prepare for pest control treatment. Understand preparation is an enormous task especially for vulnerable people.
- 5. Identify at risk units**
Some tenants, such as the elderly or disabled, may require assistance with preparation. Be willing to help them seek assistance from family or friends, or professionals. Contact Toronto Public Health if unable to find assistance.
- 6. Purchase vacuums and steamers**
Tenants may need assistance if they do not own a vacuum or steamer to clean furniture and belongings prior to pest control application.
- 7. Form a tenant volunteer group**
Other tenants may be willing to assist their neighbours with preparation.
- 8. Provide materials**
Tenants will need plastic wrap when disposing of furniture. Post signs in garbage disposal area advising tenants that items may be infested with bed bugs.
- 9. Be willing to hire professionals**
Hire reputable pest control companies who can resolve your bed bug problem.
- 10. Seal up hiding spots**
Make sure all holes, cracks, gaps, and voids around pipes, baseboards and electrical cover plates are sealed with caulking or expansion foam to prevent pests from traveling unit to unit.