



Connecticut Coalition Against Bed Bugs

Bed bug policy template for Connecticut shelters and other accommodations

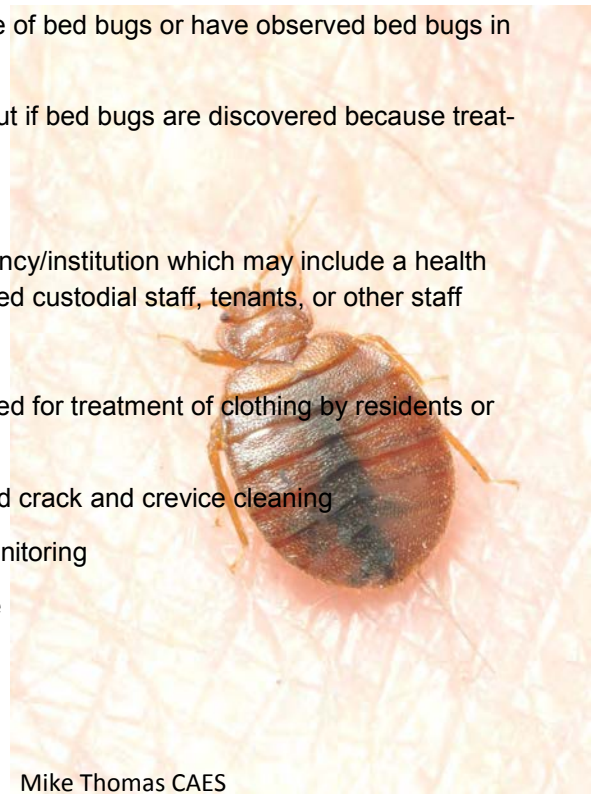
It is suggested that agencies and institutions, who provide short, long, or extended stay accommodations for Connecticut citizens, have in place, a bed bug policy prior to a discovery of bed bugs. Following are suggestions to assist you in the writing of your policy.

Policy before bed bug discovery

- Know an expert in insect/arthropod identification before discovery of bed bugs. Once a suspected bed bug is discovered, it is important to seek expert identification. Mistaken identification, another species, and lack of understanding of the different stages of development with bed bugs is common
- Have an integrated pest management (IPM) plan of action **in place** with a bed bug experienced Connecticut State licensed pest management professional (PMP) before discovery of bed bugs
- Reduce anxiety and social stigma for staff and clients. Shame, embarrassment, horror, disgust, and denial are common reactions to bed bugs. Learn identification, biology, and behavior of bed bugs. Provide information about bed bugs and a policy during intake period of new clients and/or with long term residents in rent envelopes, newsletters, posters etc.
- Have a procedure in place for non-cooperative clients. Be familiar with Connecticut General Statute laws 7-148; 47a sections 1,7,12,14,15,16,18,52,53, and 19a-35,206; and Connecticut Department of Public Health Code, section 19-13-B2
- Ask a potential client if they have come from a source of bed bugs or have observed bed bugs in their property
- No furniture or personal effects should to be thrown out if bed bugs are discovered because treatment can be effective
- Teach proactive not reactive behavior
- Assign a bed bug coordinator and/or team for the agency/institution which may include a health department advisor, medical staff, administrator, trained custodial staff, tenants, or other staff
- Consider routine preemptive inspections
- Have a clothes dryer on hand that may be easily moved for treatment of clothing by residents or staff
- Have a canister vacuum cleaner available for area and crack and crevice cleaning
- Have Climbup® bed bug interceptors available for monitoring
- Have Mattress and box-spring encasements available



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Procedure once bed bugs are discovered

Communication and cooperation are key to resolving bed bug issues

Maintain calm professionalism. Anxiety will be telegraphed to other staff and clients

Do not stigmatize the person who has bed bugs, but **respond quickly** to a report. A slow response usually leads to a client self treating with over the counter pesticides

Identify entry points and/or transportation of bed bugs; visitors, family, travel, personal articles, social networks within the facility, and so on

Inspect neighboring rooms and/or apartments for bed bug activity

Contact local health department for support if necessary

Keep detailed records

Never self treat because of risks to health and widespread pesticide resistance in bed bug populations. Seek professional treatment

Call your pest management professional (PMP)

If necessary; provide a change of clothing

Provide laundry facilities free of charge with assistance to those who are physically or mentally unable to perform what is asked of them. **Correct cleaning is critical to the success or failure of treatment**

Provide plastic bins or plastic bags (may include dissolvable plastic bags for washing clothes) for laundering and/or storing clothes

Use clothes dryer on high heat for 20 minutes to kill all stages of bed bugs (do not over fill dryer)

Inspect and put other personal items in plastic storage bins and seek guidance from your PMP

Vacuum all cracks and crevices of room and furniture where bed bugs were discovered

Post vacuuming, furniture should be moved to center of room and dresser draws opened to assist the PMP

Mattress and box-springs should be vacuumed and put into encasements, then cracks and crevices of bed frame vacuumed. Bed feet should be put into bed bug interceptors for monitoring

If practical, resident (s) should be moved to another room/apartment until treatment is complete

Once treatment is complete, always follow up approximately 10 days later with an inspection

If needed, have an experienced certified canine scent detection team walk through the building. A well-trained dog can detect very low bed bug populations e.g., one or two insects, which humans may not detect

Provide reassurance and factual information to staff and clients regarding bed bugs in order to maintain a calm environment. Make sure any infestation is eliminated and well managed, and long-term questions and concerns are answered in a timely manner.

Contacts

Staff.....

Local Health Department.....

Identification.....

Pest Management Professional.....