

L - Sample Resident Letter for Dormitories

Dear Student/University housing resident:

You are receiving this letter because you or residents of neighboring units suspect a bed bug infestation in the dorm or apartment complex. You will be contacted soon by housing or pest control agency staff in order to arrange an inspection and possible treatment of your unit. Do not be alarmed – the infestation may not yet be confirmed and, though the problem is unpleasant, bed bugs present no serious health risks. Please read the following information and take the recommended steps to reduce the risk of spreading the insects. We also encourage you to visit the Michigan Department of Community Health Website (<http://www.michigan.gov/bedbugs>) for more details about bed bugs and their control.

Background Information about Bed Bugs:

- Bed bugs have re-emerged as a pest in the United States and are now spreading in hotels, apartments, college residence halls, health care facilities, child care centers, and even office buildings throughout the country.
- Bed bugs are not a sign of bad sanitation, any home can become infested regardless how dirty or clean it is.
- Bed bugs must be introduced into a dwelling and do not fly, jump, or live on people.
- Bed bugs feed on the blood of humans, but they have not been shown to be capable of transmitting any diseases.
- Control of bed bugs requires patience and cooperation, along with a diligent management program implemented by a pest management professional.

Detection of Bed Bugs:

- Early detection of bed bugs is very important and will greatly facilitate the ability of pest management professionals to gain control in an efficient manner.
- Waking up each morning with bites that were not present the night before is an indication that bed bugs may be present. Bites can occur anywhere on the body, but are most prevalent on the upper body (arms, shoulders, and neck) or lower body (calf area). Not all people react to bed bug bites, but for many people, the bites will appear as a welt or rash and will often occur in rows of two or three. If you notice unexplained bite marks, you may want to consider contacting your campus housing office.
- In heavy infestations, bed bugs may be seen actively crawling in the room, particularly during the evening hours or when the room is dimly lit. Adult bed bugs are about 3/16-inch long and 1/8-inch wide and are reddish brown in color after feeding. Immature bed bugs are much smaller (newly emerged bed bugs are only 1mm in length) and tend to be pale in color.
- Blood stains or smears on sheets, pillowcases, or along the edges/corners of mattresses are another sign that bed bugs may be present. They are typically a tar black color.