

VANCOUVER HEALTH BY-LAW

The Bylaw requires property owners to keep their buildings repaired and maintained to prevent infestations and to take the necessary steps to eliminate any infestation that occurs. Before a pesticide can be sprayed in a multiple dwelling the owner must notify the tenants *in writing* at least **72 HOURS** prior to application, advising them:

- when, where and why spraying will be done;
- the type of spray to be used;
- who will be doing the work;
- of the safety precautions; and
- of the contact numbers for the **Poison Control Centre** and the **Pesticide Information Service**.

The Bylaw allows for only trained and certified person to apply pesticides in a multiple dwelling.

Vancouver Coastal Health encourages the application of Integrated Pest Management (I.P.M.) principles for safe and effective pest control

PESTICIDE SAFETY

Care must always be taken to prevent accidental exposure to pesticides even though all registered products are considered safe to use if handled properly.

If you use pesticides, always read and follow the instructions on the label.

If your home is going to be treated with pesticides it is recommended that you:

- Vacate premises during treatment.
- Arrange to be out for 4 to 8 hours after the application (24 hours if you are pregnant, or have respiratory ailments, allergies or are sensitive to chemicals.
- Air out the suite well when you return.
- Always follow the advice of the pest control applicator.

Re-entry time will vary depending on pesticide used, method of treatment and individual susceptibility.

Protect the Environment by Minimizing the Use of Conventional Chemicals.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

HEALTH CANADA

Website: www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla
Pest Management Regulatory Agency
604-666-6513

MINISTRY OF WATER, LAND & AIR PROTECTION

Pesticide Control Office (Surrey)
604-582-5200

POISON CONTROL CENTRE

BC Centre of Disease Control
604-682-5050
604-682-2344

For further information contact:

VANCOUVER COASTAL HEALTH HEALTH PROTECTION

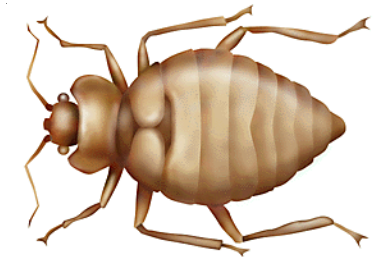
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August 2005

GUIDE TO BED BUG CONTROL

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT SERIES



Information regarding the control of bed bugs within the City of Vancouver

An environmentally sound approach to pest control

VANCOUVER COASTAL HEALTH
Health Protection

2005/09

PURPOSE

The aim of this pamphlet is to provide the general public and building owners with information on:

- 1) Identification of bed bugs;
- 2) Prevention of bed bug infestation;
- 3) Control of bed bugs within your dwelling using an integrated pest management approach;
- 4) Information on pesticide safety and applicable regulation; and
- 5) Who to contact for further information.



IDENTIFICATION

Bed bugs are small brownish, flattened parasites (4-5 mm long) that feed on the blood of humans, birds, and other mammals.

- Bed bugs are flightless but can crawl quickly over floors, walls and ceilings.
- They can also hitch rides or move around on clothing, furniture, purses and luggage.
- Females lay their eggs in secluded areas, depositing up to five a day (200-500 in a lifetime). The eggs are tiny, whitish, and barely visible (size of a dust speck).
- Bed bugs are very resilient. Nymphs can survive months without feeding and the adults for more than a year.

SIGNS OF AN INFESTATION

Bed bugs are most active in warmer weather, coming out to feed at night and hiding in cracks and crevices during the day.

- Bed bugs do not have nests like ants or bees but tend to congregate in habitual hiding places.
- Bed bugs prefer to hide close to where they feed. However if necessary, they will crawl more than 100 feet to obtain a blood meal.
- Most infestations start around beds and spread throughout a room and beyond.
- Bed bugs usually bite people at night while they are sleeping.
- The bites can occur on any exposed skin and the symptoms vary with the individual.
- Some people develop an itchy welt or localized swelling, while others have little or no reaction.
- Blood stains (black/red), spots of fecal material on sheets, pillows, mattress/box springs are also signs of infestation.
- Unpleasant sweet musty odour may occur with a severe infestation.

During the early part of an infestation bed bugs are found about the tufts, seams, and folds of mattresses and bed covers; later they spread to cracks and crevices in bed frames and box springs. If allowed to multiply, they establish themselves behind baseboards, window and door casings, pictures, moldings, and in furniture, loosened wallpaper, and cracks in plaster and partitions.

Bed bugs are not associated with the transmission of human disease

CONTROL OF BED BUGS

Bed bugs are difficult to deal with and require the combined efforts of the tenant and/or property owner and qualified pest control technician.

A combination of preparation prior to treatment, chemical treatment, and pest proofing is recommended to effectively control bed bugs.

Preparation done by tenant/occupant includes:

- 1) Laundering clothes and linens on hot settings. Transport in sealed bags to prevent movement of insects. Store in sealed bags until chemical treatment is completed.
- 2) Vacuum thoroughly, especially along carpet edges. Dispose of vacuum bag in a sealed plastic bag. Remove from home immediately.
- 3) Remove and inspect all belongings from furniture, tables, wardrobes, and closets. If free of bed bugs, store in tight fitting containers or bags.
- 4) Move furniture away from edges. Dismantle bed and other furniture if possible.
- 5) If heavy infestation, mattresses and fabric furniture may have to be discarded.
- 6) Remove pictures, electrical outlet covers from walls.
- 7) Eliminate clutter.

Treatment :

- 1) Multiple dwellings must be serviced by a certified pest control technician.
- 2) Be prepared for more than one treatment.

Contact a professional pest control firm if you suspect a bed bug problem

Pest proofing work done by owner includes:

- 1) Wash and caulk cracks and crevices in walls, ceiling and floors.
- 2) Paint walls and ceilings where paint is peeling or chipped.
- 3) Remove peeling wall paper.
- 4) Do not allow clutter to accumulate.

SELF-CARE

Bed bugs do not transmit blood-borne disease. Suggestions for the treatment of bites include:

- Resist the urge to scratch;
- Wash the bite areas with antiseptic soap to reduce the risk of infection;
- Apply an ice pack frequently to help relieve swelling;
- Ointments or lotions can be applied to ease itching
- See your doctor if the bite develops into an infection.

In rare cases people can have a serious allergic reaction to bed bug bites. Skin irritation, swelling or infection may be due to other medical conditions or insect bites other than bed bugs.

