

MOUNT ST. JOSEPH UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF RESIDENCE LIFE | DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

BEDBUG PROTOCOL

BEDBUGS IN CINCINNATI

Among major cities in the United States, Cincinnati is in the top ten for bed bug activity (Orkin, 2016). Effective treatment of bedbugs requires a licensed pest-control management specialist. Mount St. Joseph University contracts services with professional pest control companies that provide bedbug control solutions.

There is a common misconception that bed bugs are not visible to the naked eye. This is *wrong*. Furthermore, bed bugs do not move quickly enough to avoid your attention. You can see them and you should most definitely be looking for them especially when you check into a hotel room or visit a strange, new place. Bedbugs are an ever-growing problem and they are showing up in more and more common places (i.e. hotels, restaurants, movie theatres, etc). Be on the lookout. Otherwise, you have a good chance of becoming a bedbug's next ride.

BEDBUG QUICK FACTS

What do bedbugs look like? The adult bedbug is a broadly flattened, ovoid, insect with greatly reduced wings (Schuh and Slater, 1995). The reduced fore wings, or hemelytra, are broader than they are long, with a somewhat rectangular appearance. The sides of the pronotum are covered with short, stiff hairs (Furman and Catts 1970). Before feeding, bedbugs are usually brown in color and range from 6 to 9.5 mm in length. After feeding, the body is often swollen and red in color (USDA 1976).



Do bedbugs transmit diseases? Bedbugs are not known to transmit any infectious agents.

How do you get bedbugs? Because bedbugs readily hide in small crevices, they may accompany (as stowaways) luggage, furniture, clothing, pillows, boxes and other such objects when these are moved between apartments, homes and hotels. *Used furniture, particularly bed frames and mattresses, are of greatest risk of harboring bedbugs and their eggs. Bedbugs can also be acquired in hotels, restaurants, and movie theatres.*

What are the signs bedbugs are present? Bedbugs infest only a small proportion of residences, but they should be suspected if residents complain of bites that occurred while sleeping. The bedroom and other sleeping areas should be carefully examined for bedbugs and signs of bedbug activity. Folds and creases in the bed linens and seams and tufts of mattresses and box springs, in particular, may harbor bedbugs or their eggs. They may also be found within pleats of curtains, beneath loose areas of wallpaper near the bed, in corners of desks and dressers, within spaces of wicker furniture, behind cove molding, and in laundry or other items on the floor or around the room. *Sometimes, characteristic dark brown or reddish fecal spots of bedbugs are apparent on the bed linens, mattress or walls near the bed.*

PREVENTATIVE/GENERAL AWARENESS QUICK TIPS

1. Vacuum your room regularly and dispose of the vacuum bag by sealing it in plastic and placing it in the dumpsters outside of the Seton Center loading dock beneath the Southeast wing.
2. Periodically inspect bedding and linens.
3. Launder bedding and linens frequently in hot water and dry on high heat (temperatures above 113 degrees Fahrenheit kill all life stages of bed bugs).
4. Inspect anything you bring into your residence hall room for bedbugs.
5. Keep an eye open for welts or bite marks and visit the Wellness Center to inspect them.
6. Keep your ears open for people complaining of or talking about infestations.
7. Speak to the Office of Residence Life ASAP if you find signs of bedbugs.

I THINK MY ROOM HAS BEDBUGS! NOW WHAT?

Step 1: Relax, and as soon as possible you should speak to the Office of Residence Life, Seton 132. If you find what you believe to be a bed bug in your room, try to catch the specimen with a piece of tape and submit to the Office of Residence Life. It will be submitted to the Department of Buildings and Grounds for evaluation.

Step 2: If determined that there is bedbug activity, the University's contracted service will be contacted to perform an evaluation and treatment of your room.

Do not try to treat your room by yourself. Our contracted service will arrive within a week of the bedbug report. The Office of Residence Life will contact you with the date of arrival and estimated time for bedbug treatment.

Step 3: The Office of Residence will contact you to schedule an appointment to review preparation requirements for bedbug treatment. There will be a list of several steps provided to you as a reference for room preparation. Such steps will include cleaning your room, washing and drying bedding materials, drying all clothes (containing this to one laundry room), vacuuming your room and emptying your trash among others. You will be provided with a temporary room to stay during preparation and treatment should you choose to utilize it. This room will also be treated, and preparation for this room will be the same as your previous room. In addition to those directions, you will need to dispose of your trash by placing it in a plastic trash bag sealed with duct tape and taken to the dumpster off the loading dock on the ground floor of Seton Residence Hall on the southernmost end of the Southeast wing. You must also dispose of personal furniture if it is infested.

Step 4: Your room will be treated. Create a path in your room for ease of access. Remove all bed linens. You will not be permitted to enter your room until 4 hours after treatment. The Department of Buildings and Grounds will place a sign on your door notifying you of treatment time and when it is safe to reenter your room. Your bed and other furniture will be taken apart for treatment and put back together when determined that there is no further bedbug activity. You will see preventative measures in your room (including double sided carpet tape along the baseboard). After the first treatment, you should only re-enter your room if necessary. The first treatment may not control the bedbugs depending on infestation severity. If you notice bedbugs on the double-sided tape when re-entering, notify the Office of Residence Life immediately. Please notify us of any classrooms, laundry rooms, and garbage rooms you use. **You will receive an email and physical note with detailed instructions and dates of your treatment and follow-up treatment. It is University policy that you follow all directions in the message so your room can be treated successfully.**

Step 5: Our contracted service will return approximately one to two weeks later to inspect your room to determine if further treatment is necessary. The Office of Residence Life will inform you of the time your room will be re-inspected. It will be important to leave your room as you left it when it was first treated so that your room can be easily retreat if signs of bedbugs still exist. Once treatment has been completed you will be permitted to return to your room four hours afterward.

Step 6: If additional bedbug sightings or evidence of bedbug activity occurs, please report this to the Office of Residence Life immediately. Treatments will continue until the bedbugs are controlled. The Department of Buildings and Grounds will supply double-sided tape at your request so you may continue to monitor your room. Please do not use any alcohol related treatments in your room.

Please note that following all directions provided to you exactly is critical to the University's ability to manage the bedbugs. Failure to follow provided directions often results in the need for continued treatment, which will be done at the cost of the student.

More information about bed bugs can be found at:

<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/bedbugs/> (Harvard University)

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/IN297> (University of Florida)

http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/health/downloads/health_pdf11068.pdf (Cinti. Department of Health)

Please contact the Office of Residence Life or the Department of Buildings and Grounds if you have any questions about the University's bedbug protocol. Thank you.

Department of Buildings and Grounds: 513-244-4727
Office of Residence Life: 513-244-4304