

MODEL NOTICE

Tell Residents How to Prevent, Get Rid of Bedbugs

Here is a notice you can adapt and give to residents to inform them about how to prevent bedbugs and deal with a bedbug infestation. It has been adapted from the *HUD Healthy Home Guide*.

BEDBUG PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Bedbugs are small, nocturnal insects that feed on blood. They are about ¼-inch long and ⅛-inch wide. They have flat, reddish-brown bodies and six legs. After feeding, they become round and red. They give off a sweet, musty odor. Their eggs are white and very small, and their excrement appears as tiny brown or black spots. Bedbugs are typically found on mattresses, box springs and bed frames, clothing, bedding, furniture, and in dark cracks, seams, or crevices in walls or floors. They can travel through water pipes, wall voids, and ducts, and can spread from room to room. Some people who are bitten by them get itchy welts on their skin, but bedbugs do not carry disease.

- ❖ Before you bring clothing and bedding into your home, wash the items in hot, soapy water and dry them on the hottest dryer setting.
- ❖ When you take bedding (sheets, blankets, pillows, and pillow cases) in or out of the building for laundering, seal the items in a plastic bag.
- ❖ Used mattresses and bed frames may harbor bedbugs. Do not bring used or discarded bed frames, mattresses, box springs, or upholstered furniture into your home. Do not pick up curbside furniture.
- ❖ Get rid of clutter, particularly near beds and clothes, to reduce the number of places where the bugs can hide.
- ❖ If you wake up with itchy welts and don't know their cause, report it promptly to site management.