Sedgwick County Health Department

Epidemiology Program

8/16/2016

**Talking to your Landlord about Bed Bugs**

Talk to your landlord before you have a problem. Bed bug infestations are easier to prevent than treat.

**Know your Rights!**

* You have the right to move into a pest free home.
* Lease signings often happen on move-in day. Schedule your lease signing before the day you move-in to allow time for discussions about bed bugs, and other issues.
* Request a walk-through of the unit you will be moving into, before move-in day.
* Don’t be pressured into something you don’t understand or agree with!
* The local codes states that in multi-unit housing, the landlord is responsible for the treatment of bed bugs if there is more than one unit infested. If you are renting a single family home, the bed bug treatment would be your responsibility.

**Talk to your Landlord Before you Sign a Lease**

* Ask your landlord how they will get rid of bed bugs should they become a problem.
	+ Landlords should use a professional pest control company.
	+ Landlords should not attempt to treat the bed bugs with home remedies, bug bombs, or foggers. Trying to treat the infestation without the help of a professional pest control company will be ineffective.
* Ask your landlord if there have been any bed bug infestations within the last year, and if they are eradicated.
* Ask your landlord to show you where bed bugs/ pests are covered in your lease, and have them explain.

**Educate Yourself and Act Quickly!**

* Learn to spot bed bugs. *(Bed bug inspection toolkit info)*
* Look for signs of bed bugs on mattresses, furniture, baseboards, etc. *(Pictures of signs of bed bugs)*
* Pictures of bed bugs can be sent to gotbugs@ksu.edu for identification, free of charge!
* Remember if you think you have bed bugs, DO NOT HESITATE to tell your landlord. Bed bugs are harder to treat the longer you wait.
* No need to be embarrassed. Bed bug infestations can happen to anyone, anywhere!

**Keep the Bed Bugs Out**

* Do not bring used furniture, mattresses, or box springs that you got from Goodwill, the DAV, a thrift shop, or a garage sale into your home without thoroughly inspecting it for bed bugs. This includes wood furniture.
* NEVER bring mattresses, box spring, or furniture into your home that you found outside.
* After going to public places like libraries, movie theatres, or anywhere you sit for a while check your belongings for bed bugs. This includes your shoes, purse, backpack, etc.
* After staying overnight a place other than your home, check all belongings for bed bugs. This includes your shoes, purse, backpack, etc.
* Keep your home free of clutter so bed bugs have fewer places to hide.