

EXTERMINATION

Tenants are responsible for notifying their landlord without delay when they find bedbugs in their home.

PREPARING THE HOME FOR THE EXTERMINATOR

To ensure the success of the extermination, tenants must cooperate with their landlord and closely follow the exterminator's guidelines, such as:

- Empty closets and chests of drawers. Put all clothing, bedding (sheets, mattress covers, blankets, bedspreads) and curtains in the dryer and run on the highest setting for at least 30 minutes to kill any bedbugs and their eggs.
- Store all clothing, bedding and curtains in tightly closed plastic bags until the extermination has been completed.
- Remove clutter to facilitate the exterminator's job.
- Vacuum everywhere in the home, including under the furniture, inside closets, on baseboards, etc. Empty the contents of the vacuum into a plastic bag, close the bag tightly and throw it in the garbage outdoors.
- Check with the exterminator before getting rid of mattresses and upholstered furniture. If they are in good condition, they can be treated.
- Don't bring home new furniture until the extermination is completely finished.

To ensure successful extermination of bedbugs, cooperation between the tenant, the landlord and the exterminator is key.

TENANT'S RESPONSIBILITY

The tenant must:

- Call the landlord or the building manager without delay after spotting bedbugs.
- Contact a representative from the Division des permis et des inspections for the borough by calling 311, if the landlord doesn't take action.
- Give the exterminator access to all the rooms in the home.
- Keep the home clean and clutter-free.
- Follow the exterminator's recommendations.

Caution: Don't try to solve the problem yourself. Don't use insecticides or other products sold over the counter: they may harm your health and make the bedbugs harder to eliminate.

LANDLORD'S RESPONSIBILITY

When notified about bedbugs, the landlord must:

- Take action to correct the problem.
- Hire an exterminator in order to completely eradicate all bedbugs in the building.
- Enable the exterminator to visit all the common areas, all the apartments adjacent to the one where bedbugs were found and, if the exterminator thinks it is necessary, any other apartment in order to eliminate the problem throughout the building.

EXTERMINATOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

The exterminator must:

- Make every effort to detect bedbugs throughout every room of the apartment and in all the adjacent apartments and, if he thinks it is necessary, in any other apartment.
- Make sure to destroy bedbugs at all stages of development. This requires the exterminator to return at least once after the initial treatment to check if all the bedbugs have been eliminated.
- Avoid using insecticides needlessly. Mattresses and upholstered furniture can usually be treated with hot steam.
- Hold a permit from the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques and use certified technicians.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

ville.montreal.qc.ca/bedbugs
or call 311

Produced by the Ville de Montréal (ville.montreal.qc.ca), the Direction de santé publique at the Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal (santemontreal.qc.ca) and the Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal (omhm.qc.ca)

LET'S FIGHT BEDBUGS

Any type of home, whether luxurious or modest, clean or unsanitary, can be a haven for bedbugs. There is no need to be embarrassed if these bugs end up moving in with you. The important thing is to act fast in order to eliminate them.

WHAT IS A BEDBUG?

- Adult bedbugs are insects the size and colour of an apple seed.
- They bite humans at night to feed on their blood.
- Bedbug bites look like mosquito bites.
- They avoid light and usually hide in bedrooms, close to the bed and along the seams of the mattress.
- Bedbugs do not fly or jump on people. They move around by walking.



WHAT ARE THE HEALTH HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH BEDBUGS?

- Bedbugs do not transmit diseases.
- Their bites can cause itching.
- Skin infections can result from scratching the bites.
- Bedbugs can cause several problems, such as sleep disruption, anxiety and social isolation.

HOW TO DETECT THEM

If you do not see bedbugs, look for the following clues:

- Insect bites similar to mosquito bites
- Itchy skin
- Black dots on mattress seams
- Small blood stains on sheets and mattress seams



HOW THEY SPREAD

- By travelling between apartments in a building
- By being carried in various objects:
 - Suitcases, handbags, clothing, etc.
 - Furniture, especially mattresses and upholstered furniture, such as armchairs and sofas

HOW TO PREVENT A BEDBUG INFESTATION

Never bring home mattresses or furniture found outside such as sofas, armchairs, sofa beds or futons, even if they appear to be in good condition, because they might harbour bedbugs.

If you bring home second-hand clothes:

- Place them in a plastic bag and close the bag tightly before bringing it into your home.
- Empty the contents of the bag directly into the dryer and run the dryer on the highest setting for at least 30 minutes to kill the bedbugs and their eggs.
- Throw the empty bag in the garbage outdoors.

If you buy used furniture:

- Carefully inspect and clean it before bringing it into your building.
- Avoid second-hand mattresses or upholstered furniture.

HOW TO GET RID OF INFESTED MATTRESSES OR FURNITURE

If the exterminator asks you to make them unusable, slash the fabric or destroy them. Enclose mattresses in large plastic bags before taking them out of your dwelling (free large bags available at Accès Montréal offices).

Helpful tips for preventing and controlling bedbug infestations