Wesleyan University
Office of Residential Life

Bed Bug Treatment Checklist for Students

Steps to be taken by students if bed bugs have been confirmed in their residence:

Bed bugs can travel in clothing, bags, backpacks, laptops, furniture—anything with small spaces to hide. Therefore, all actions should be performed inside your room to prevent the spread of bed bugs.

Backpacks should be treated as clothing. Personal electronics (i.e. cell phones, MP3 players, laptops) should be left on the desktop during treatment so they can be examined. Textbooks and study materials should also be left in your room (not bagged) during treatment. Treatment of the room may take upwards of 7-10 business days. Check with your area coordinator if you have any questions about these instructions.

It is imperative that the following be done after the room has been inspected and the presence of bed bugs have been confirmed, but before room is treated:

_____ All clothing, including items in your room, dresser and closet must be bagged and laundered. Along with that all bath linens, bedding, and soft luggage (duffle bags) must be bagged and laundered. Please contact Physical Plant when you are ready to start the process, as they will provide the bags necessary to accommodate your items. They will also provide you with bags in which to place your items after laundering.

_____ Items that are delicate or have the possibility of shrinking or color fading should be put into a separate plastic bag clearly marked DRY CLEANING. Physical Plant will take these items to be dry cleaned.

_____ Bring laundry bags immediately to laundry room and empty contents into the dryer. Immediately after unloading and starting laundry, dispose of plastic bags in a dumpster outside the building. Run the dryer on high heat for at least 20 minutes before washing; the dryer heat on campus is above 130º degrees, which is what is needed to kill them. Wash twice, in hot water, and dry on high heat. Keep track of the number of cycles and the amount spent on laundering. Physical Plant will reimburse you in Middletown Cash. Be sure to place cleaned laundry in new garbage bags.

_____ Do NOT unpack until given clearance to do so by an exterminator. Treatment may take up to 10 days.
Clean up all clutter; remove all non-furniture items from under beds and discard cardboard boxes. Remember, clutter provides places for bugs to hide!

Take all items off the floor, including closet floors.

Move all items into center of room, at least two feet away from the walls.

Place any shoes or other small, non-washable items from your closet into a plastic garbage bag and tie the bag off. Leave this in your room until the exterminator treats the room.

Vacuum all carpet and furniture, making sure to clean all crevices and corners, make sure to get behind furniture, including bed headboard. Immediately dispose of vacuum bag in dumpster outside building.

Sweep and mop all floors, including under the bed.

Remove all open food.

Leave room for at least 3 hours following treatment by a professional exterminator.

After room has been treated:

Vacuum daily and discard vacuum bags after each use.

A second treatment will be administered by the exterminator 7-10 days after the initial treatment.

Don’t mop floor or clean pesticide residue for at least 10 days after the final treatment.

Room will be inspected by exterminator 7-10 days after second treatment. A staff member will be present; students are again encouraged to be present. Follow-up will be determined as needed.