

**City of Ashland
Housing Authority**

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Bay Tower Apartments
Bay Haven Apartments
Bay Ridge Apartments
Bay Terrace Apartments
Forty-Five Family Homes



This institution is an equal opportunity
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Bed Bug Information

What are bed bugs?

- Bed bugs are small insects that feed on the blood of people, birds, and other animals.
- They are oval with flat, rusty red colored bodies after they have fed. When they are young and before they feed, they are lighter in color. (see photos)
- Bed bugs cannot fly or jump.
- Bed bugs are not a sign of poor hygiene or cleanliness. Anyone can be affected by bed bugs.
- Bed bugs often hide in bedding, on mattresses and box springs, and in cracks and gaps in walls and furniture.

What are bed bug bites like?

- Bed bugs usually bite at night when people are sleeping.
- Bed bug bites are painless and usually don't wake people.
- The bites can develop into large itchy spots on the skin. Some people may not react at all. Bed bugs are not known to carry diseases. Scratching itchy bites can cause infection.

How do I get bed bugs?

- Bed bugs can be brought into an apartment or house on luggage, used clothing, electronics, furniture, and bedding or other items once placed in an infested area.
- They can move from one apartment to another when heavily infested (large numbers of them) or if the apartment has not been properly treated.
- Travel (both in the United States and internationally) and staying or living in homeless shelters, hotels, youth hostels, dormitories, and group homes, increases the risk of picking up bed bugs if preventative actions are not taken.

How do I prevent bed bugs in my apartment or house?

- Do not bring used furniture into your apartment or house. If you would like to bring in used furniture and believe it does not have bed bugs FIRST speak with your Property Manager. If you do not, you will have to dispose of that furniture.
- Cover used mattresses and box springs in a bed bug proof plastic case.
- Do not bring used bedding, clothing, curtains, or other linens into your apartment. Even re-sale shops can house bed bugs. If you would like to bring something used in, then take it to a public laundromat and put all items in a hot dryer for at least 30 minutes.
- Check books carefully. Bed bugs like to hide in bindings, so look closely for eggs, blood or fecal spots.
- When staying in a hotel, place all your belongings in the bathtub while you first inspect the room. Check the sheets, mattress, box spring, furniture, headboard for signs of bugs.
- When you return home from travelling, check luggage and other belongings before entering your house or apartment.

What should I do if I think I have bed bugs in my house or apartment?

- It is hard to get rid of bedbugs, but it can be done.
- If you think you have bed bugs...
 - Look in the cracks and gaps in furniture, bedding, trim, window coverings, etc. with a flashlight.
 - Clean and remove clutter in infested area(s) to reduce hiding places.
 - Carefully clean infested area using brush and vacuum (empty vacuum immediately after use/get rid of vacuum bag by enclosing in plastic bag and putting in garbage).
 - Seal mattress and box spring in bed bug proof plastic cases.
 - Wash all bedding and linens in hot water and dry in hot dryer.
 - Over the counter pesticides and aerosol foggers (bug bombs) do not work, and if not used correctly, can result in chemical poisoning.
 - The best way to get rid of bed bugs is to have a professional pest control company do it. Heat treatment combined with chemical use is the most effective way to control bed bugs.

What if I rent my house or apartment?

- You should call you landlord so your landlord can hire a pest control company.



"The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin". Federal law also prohibits discrimination on the basis of age. Complaints of discrimination may be forwarded to the Wisconsin Department Industry, Labor & Human Relations - Equal Rights Division - 819 North 6th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203.