

<b>WORK PROCEDURE:</b>  Working in Areas Containing Bedbugs			<b>NUMBER:</b> WP-72
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<b>PREPARED BY:</b>  Facilities Management (FM)	<b>AUTHORIZED BY:</b>   Lynn Logan	<b>CLASSIFICATION:</b>  Work Procedure	<b>EFFECTIVE:</b> June 9, 2016
			<b>SUPERSEDES:</b> New

**SCOPE**

This work procedure addresses worker protection and education prior to working in areas that are known or suspected of containing Bedbugs.

**RESPONSIBILITY**

This procedure will be adopted only when bedbug treatments are not to be considered. Compliance with all steps outlined in this work procedure is the responsibility of the appropriate supervisor and the workers carrying out the work.

All workers required to use this procedure will receive an initial briefing by their supervisor.

**INFORMATION**

In general, bedbugs may be found in residence buildings in sleeping areas and the presence of actual bugs, eggs, fecal material and molting would confirm the presence of bedbugs.

Much of the preparation to get rid of bedbugs in immediate work areas will involve action on the part of the resident/occupant of the area and is critical to eventual success in eliminating bedbugs (reduce clutter and vacuum all items and furniture in sleeping quarters).

It is essential that the caretaking supervisor in the affected area is informed of the concerns regarding bedbugs. Remediation steps must be adopted by Housing or the Caretaking Supervisors to prevent the spread of the bedbugs.

There are two methods to eliminate bedbugs: Non-chemical treatment which involves vacuuming and steam cleaning of sleeping areas; and a chemical treatment applied by a licenced pest control company. These treatments may be requested prior to initiating the work in the affected areas. However, the process takes three weeks to complete and Facilities Management workers may be required to enter the infected area prior to that to perform their work. In this case, it is recommended to follow the following procedure:

**PROCEDURE**

**Wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

The supervisor must ensure that workers are provided with and wear the following:

- Tyvek suit or coveralls
- Disposable gloves
- Safety glasses
- Removable shoe coverings

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Upon completion of the work, use a dedicated vacuum cleaner to vacuum the Tyvek suit / coveralls, and inspect your clothing and body to ensure you are not carrying any hitchhiking bedbugs.

After using the vacuum for removal of bed bugs:

1. Remove the vacuum from the room to a caretaking slop room.
2. Remove the bag from the vacuum and dispose of it in a specific garbage bag.
3. Detach the hose and wand and rinse thoroughly with hot water.
4. After the work is complete, remove your Tyvek suit and boots and dispose of them in the same specific garbage bag as the vacuum bag. Walk to the nearest washroom and wash properly with soap and water.

**ADDITIONAL READING:**

**Bedbug Information Fact Sheet**

With the declining use of pesticides coupled with increased exposure from travel, outbreaks of bedbug infestation have been occurring in homes, at fine hotels, on cruise ships, and university residences across Canada and the U.S. Sometimes bedbugs are unknowingly brought to the residence by a student in their luggage.

**They are not a health threat** and have not been shown to spread disease to humans. The main concern is the risk of infection caused by scratching the bite areas.

**Evidence of Bedbugs**

Things to look for that might indicate bedbugs:

- Bite marks that are in rows and clusters
- Blood spots on linen
- Dead bugs, molting, eggs, or fecal material
- Living bedbugs.

Bedbugs are visible to the naked eye. **An adult bedbug is approximately the size of an apple seed**, while a newly hatched nymph is the size of a letter on a penny.

**Treatment of Bedbugs**

The control / eradication of bedbugs is not something that can be accomplished with one treatment or over a short period of time. If bedbugs are confirmed, multiple treatments over several weeks are typically required. In some cases, successful eradication can take months. Successful eradication cannot be achieved without cooperation and effort on behalf of residents / tenants, Facilities Management Staff, and a licensed pest control company.

**Be vigilant when staying in hotels or vacationing. Immediately launder your clothing when returning.**