



STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Paul Wenning, Chair, Franklin County Board of Health
 Dr. Susan Jones, The Ohio State University
 Sue Carpenter, Columbus Code Enforcement
 Andrew Christman, Ohio Pest Management Association
 Matt Beal, Ohio Department of Agriculture

Question	Answer:
Do bed bugs spread disease?	NO! Bed bugs are not known to spread disease while feeding.
I have bed bugs in my apartment. What should I do? or I moved into my apartment a few days ago and now I'm being eaten alive by bed bugs. What can I do?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish proof that you told your landlord about the bed bugs by sending him a certified letter asking him to remedy the condition within 30 days. <i>You must have written proof that you notified the landlord.</i> 2. If the landlord refuses to hire a licensed exterminator after you have contacted him, call 2-1-1 and file a complaint. or <p><u>If you live in Columbus:</u> Contact Columbus Code Enforcement by calling 3-1-1 and request;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A confirmation number to schedule an inspection. • Ask about other bed bug complaints in your apartment building. If there were other complaints before you moved into your apartment (or house), you can argue that you did NOT cause the bed bug problem, and that the landlord should have known about the bed bugs and notified you. <p><u>If you live in Franklin County, but outside of Columbus and Worthington:</u> Call the Franklin County Board of Health at 614-462-3928. Ask if there have been other complaints about your apartment building. If there were other complaints before you moved into your apartment (or house), you can argue that you did NOT cause the bed bug problem, and that the landlord should have known about the bed bugs.</p> <p><u>If you live in the City of Worthington:</u> Call the City Office at 614-431-2424. Ask if there have been other complaints about your apartment building. If there were other complaints before you moved into your apartment (or house), you can argue that you did NOT cause the bed bug problem, and that the landlord should have known about the bed bugs.</p> <p>You may want to call the Better Business Bureau at 614- 486-6336.</p> 3. Research. Ask your neighbors if they have bed bugs or if they know of anybody else in the building that does. If 10 percent or more of the apartments are infested, Columbus Code Enforcement and the Franklin County Board of Health can force the landlord to hire an exterminator.
Can the landlord charge me for the extermination?	<p>Yes, especially if your home is the only infested unit in the building. If you and the landlord fail to agree, then get help by contacting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Columbus Urban League 614-257-6300 (Housing Department) • Community Mediation Service 614-228-7191



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Question	Answer:
My landlord has the maintenance person spray for bed bugs. Can he do that?	No. Only a licensed exterminator experienced with bed bug control can eradicate your home of the pests. Some landlords have maintenance staff who are trained and licensed to kill bed bugs and other pests, but that's rare. If the landlord isn't using a licensed exterminator, call 2-1-1.
I have an elderly relative who has bed bugs, and they can't afford to hire an exterminator. Is there any money to help them?	No public agency has money to help pay for bed bug treatment at this time. Try talking to your exterminator about scheduling a payment plan.
My landlord had me go to the hardware store and buy over-the-counter insecticides to kill bed bugs. It doesn't work. Isn't he supposed to get an exterminator for me?	<p>YES. Very few over-the-counter insecticides are effective for killing bed bugs. The ones that do kill bed bugs only work if you spray them directly on the bugs. They do not kill bed bugs that are hiding behind the baseboard or under the carpet.</p> <p>Total release aerosol insecticides (a.k.a. "bug bombs," "flea spray") will kill a small number of the bed bugs, but they may also scatter the bugs through your home.</p> <p>Only a licensed exterminator experienced with bed bug control will be able to rid your home of these pests.</p> <p>If your landlord refuses to hire an exterminator, file a complaint by calling 2-1-1.</p>
My elderly, disabled mother has bed bugs. We can pay for the exterminator, but we can't move her furniture. Could someone help us?	Call 2-1-1. If you or family members belong to a church, speak with the minister about helping you.
My tenants moved out and left the unit infested with bed bugs.	Talk to your lawyer. If you cannot afford a lawyer; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquaint yourself with the Ohio Revised Code 1923 & 5321 • Call Columbus Urban League at 614-257-6300
Can I get out of my lease if there are bed bugs in my unit?	No. Talk to a lawyer. They may be able to help you negotiate a 'Release' from the lease contract.
How do I prevent taking the bed bug with me when I move from my unit?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You do not have to throw clothing away that you can wash in hot water and dry in a hot dryer for 30 minutes. • Check the nooks & crannies of all furniture. They may be safe to move if you clean them thoroughly. • If you want to keep your mattresses and sofa, you should have them treated by a licensed exterminator just before you move. Call an exterminator for a cost quotation. • Store personal items like photo albums in airtight containers. • Completely destroy anything that you throw away.