Bed Bug Guidance for Harvard University Housing Residents

Have you observed or been bitten by bed bugs or other pests in your residence?

No

Relax, remain vigilant and learn how to reduce risks.

Yes

DO

Inform your property manager as to the specific room and date of the incident.

Try to capture a specimen or digital images of the bug so that it may be identified properly.

Cooperate with the property manager and pest control vendor so they may abate the issue.

DO NOT

Apply any pesticide to Harvard property or put yourself or others at unnecessary risk.

Relocate your belongings to other rooms (unless specifically advised to do so by the property management team), as this risks spreading pests.

Dispose of mattresses or other potentially infested furniture or other items without first checking with the property management team.

Your property manager will contact their Harvard-approved pest control vendor to visit and inspect your unit and adjacent areas, and to pursue appropriate interventions.

Pest control interventions require objective evidence that a pest is present. This may require repeated visits during many weeks to establish the cause and inform decisions on how to proceed.

Efforts to eliminate bed bugs can be a laborious process that may require some disruption of your normal routine for many days or weeks. In some cases the pest control vendor may apply certain approved pesticides. In others, non-chemical means of intervention may be considered, if appropriate.

Whereas bed bugs may cause some annoyance, they are not known to transmit infections.

Should you suffer an injury beyond a simple insect bite, contact your clinician as well as the property manager of your building.