

# Preparation for Dog Detection

Dear Resident:

We will soon be bringing in bedbug detecting dogs on your floor to provide a thorough check for bed bugs. Please review the information below and help us get the word out to other residents on the floor and in the building.

**We need your cooperation with the following steps in order to prepare your room for the inspection:**

- Place all money and jewelry in the drawer or a safe place
- Clean any loose items up off the floor, and place all loose clothes in a laundry basket on the floor
- Arrange your closet so the dog has access to the floor space and the back wall panel
- Pull all furniture one foot away from the wall
- Pull out any items from under the bed to allow the dog access to that area
- Leave all personal items such as book bags, computers, and clothes in the room
- Open all drawers about 3 inches to allow the dog access

**You are not required to be present during this inspection.** We ask that if you are around, please do not approach the dog. His focus is checking the rooms, and distractions will hinder his performance. If you are not present, Housing staff will enter the room with the dog and may need to move some items in your room, or complete the aforementioned steps, in order to allow the dog to inspect all areas.

The Resident Assistants of your floor will be contacting you to have you sign a document to indicate that you understand the process. This form will also ask for your cell phone number so that we can contact you if the dog indicates that there are bed bugs present so we can guide you through the treatment process.

If you have any questions or concerns about this process, please contact your Residence Director. After 5 p.m. or during the weekend, call the hall/complex front desk and provide them your name, room number, and cell phone number. The Residence Director on duty will return your call shortly.

For daily updates regarding the bed bug situation, please refer to the main housing website:

**<http://housing.unl.edu/bedbugs.shtml>**

# Preparation for Heat Treatment

Heat treatment is an effective and quick method of eliminating bed bugs. All life stages, adults, nymphs, and eggs, die within minutes at a temperature of 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Temperatures in your room will be raised to between 120 degrees and 140 degrees, which are lethal to bed bug populations but not hot enough to damage most personal belongings in your room.

Residents' assistance in following these instructions will have a significant impact on the success of this intervention. Carefully review this information to prepare for heat treatment of your room. Contact your Facilities Manager or Residence Director with any questions.

The following list of items needs to be removed or protected as they do not tolerate heat treatment:

- Fish in aquariums
- House plants
- Fresh food (fruits, vegetables, etc.)
- Food that melts (chocolate, candy, etc.)
- Carbonated beverages
- Prescription and over-the-counter medications
- Make-up and deodorant
- Wax-based items (candles, crayons, etc.)
- Pressurized containers (aerosol spray cans, oxygen bottles, fire extinguishers, etc.)
- Flammable items (lighters, lamp oil, alcohol, solvents, etc.)
- Musical instruments (leave case in room)
- Oil-based paintings
- Loose CDs or DVDs
- Family heirlooms and irreplaceable items should be inspected and a determination made as to whether or not they should be treated

Some of the smaller items on this list could be stored in a refrigerator during the treatment. Larger items must be inspected by the Facilities staff or pest control agent, and will need to be boxed up and stored in an alternate location during treatment. It will be determined if any of these items need to be treated or can be treated using other methods.

If it is determined that an item cannot be treated, your Facilities Manager will assist you in packaging and disposing of the item if you desire. Untreated items cannot be brought back into the residence hall as they may re-introduce bed bugs to your room.

## Clothing

- Bed bugs often seek shelter on and in clothing. To avoid re-introducing bed bugs, any clothing removed during heat treatment must be treated before being returned to the treated room.
- Select clothes for the treatment period. Facilities staff will contact you and place those clothes in a sealed plastic bag.
- Facilities will dry the clothing on high heat.
- Facilities will dispose of plastic bag and return freshly cleaned clothes to the resident.
- Clothing left in the room to be heat treated must be packed or stored loosely in drawers, closets, and laundry baskets.
- Clothing on hangers may be left in closets if the space between the items is large enough to allow the heated air to circulate. Arrange hanging items to open up air space of about ½ to 1 inch between them.
- Larger fabric items (linens, towels, blankets, etc.)
- Books, papers, smaller items, etc.
- Heat treatment moves a large amount of air by use of industrial fans. All items that can be blown around and possibly damaged should be protected.
- Place loose papers in boxes.
- Secure glass items, knick-knacks, etc. Do not leave breakable items on shelves or other areas where damage could occur.
- Pictures, paintings, and other wall-mounted items will need to be taken down to prevent damage. These items can be left on a table or the floor along baseboards.

## Electronics

- Electronics are a hiding place for bed bugs. DO NOT remove electronics from areas being heated.
- Switch all appliances to "OFF" and disconnect all appliances by unplugging them from the wall outlet.

## After Treatment

When returning to your room, unit, or suite, be aware of the following things:

- Temperatures will probably be elevated when you return. Higher temperatures resulting from the heat treatment process require a cool down period which may take several hours.
- Open windows or turn on air conditioning to aid in cooling.
- During the heat treatment, many of your things may have shifted to allow for even distribution. Items may not have been returned to exactly where they were before the treatment.
- If you suspect damage to your possessions inform your Residence Director.

With your cooperation we will be able to successfully eliminate this challenging pest. We hope that your expectations have been met and we thank you for your help. Contact your Facilities Manager or Residence Director if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Adapted from: Buffalo Exterminating Fact Sheet, 3636 North Buffalo Road Orchard Park, NY 14127.