

BED BUGS

INFORMATION YOU SHOULD KNOW

An epidemic that is affecting the Hospitality industry is taking place from coast to coast and that is the return of the bed bug. Wiped out in prior years by the use of DDT (which is now banned due to carcinogenic properties), the bed bug has returned due to greater international travel, non-effective treatments and ignoring the problem on hand.

No matter how clean you keep your property, the bed bug can infiltrate very easily and be brought into your establishment by any guest in their luggage or clothes. Once inside the property, female bed bugs can lay 12 eggs per day and can hatch in 6 days and nymphs can feed immediately. Once infested, you can expect to close down your operation for at least several weeks and be prepared to dispose of the following: mattress, linens, carpeting, area rugs and furniture. Furthermore, your insurance policy does not cover bed bug infestation and the losses suffered by you due to the closure of your property.

Bed bugs travel from room to room looking for their “blood feast” in order to multiply. Unlike the mosquito, the bed bug uses anesthetic properties when drawing out the blood from your guests so they do not realize they have been bitten until they see blood spots on the linens or red welts and sores on their bodies. Is there anything to guarantee that you won’t be affected by this scourge? I am afraid there is nothing you can do but there are procedures and products that will enable you to cleanse and protect your property from being overrun.

After each guest’s stay, your staff should examine the room for any evidence of bed bugs. Bed bugs and their fecal matter should be looked for in the following areas: the bed linens, mattress (especially under the box spring), walls, behind pictures on wall, headboards and around the perimeter of the carpet.

InnStyle has an “environmentally safe” spray that should be sprayed after every guest departs. The treatment should be sprayed under the box spring and around the perimeter of the room. Also for long term protection, InnStyle offers a box spring and mattress cover that is certified to be bed bug proof.

It is important that you have procedures in place to deal with this problem so that you cannot be sued by a bitten guest. If you go to court and have ignored the “situation”, your chances of escaping damage are nil for not protecting your guests. Furthermore, if you have implemented the above procedures your chances of having bed bugs are substantially reduced.

What happens if you have spotted bed bugs? You should immediately call a professional exterminator to examine and treat the problem. Early detection should rid your property of the bed bugs before infestation takes place and the aforementioned scenario happens (closing down your establishment). Your property is much too valuable to ignore this situation and subject your guests to physical and psychological harm!