

Bedbugs from the Perspective of the Landlord



RIGHTS

- To expect full compliance and cooperation from your tenants when it comes to protecting your building and investments.
- Make policies consistent with your business mission and goals within the confines of the law.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- To ensure a property is free of pests of any kind prior to a tenant moving in.
- To provide a safe and healthy environment for your tenants.
- To educate and inform your tenants and employees of expectations and processes.

RESOURCES

Sioux Falls Health Department 605-367-8284
(Education and general info)

Sioux Falls Building Services605-367-8673
(Building- or landlord-related issues or more information on the Property Maintenance Code)

SDMHA (South Dakota Multi-Housing Assoc.) 605-336-7756
(Multi-housing questions or concerns)

CDC information: www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/topics/bedbugs.htm



City of Sioux Falls





Being a landlord comes with many responsibilities; one of them is ensuring the homes you are providing for people are free of pests of any kind prior to a tenant moving in. This is usually a fairly routine process, but with the spike in bedbug infestations over the past few years, control can be a bit more challenging.

Bedbugs can migrate from one apartment to another and hide in cracks and crevices of walls and in other structures. It is important to acknowledge this migration as it may appear a unit is bedbug-free upon visual inspection, but a tenant can move in and inactive populations residing in walls/baseboards can and will quickly resurface. Taking a proactive approach is far more effective from a cost and time perspective than being reactive.

Bedbugs can show up anywhere. They aren't necessarily a sign of poor housekeeping or neglect and can be picked up in many other environments. Acknowledging this risk of your industry and being open about your plans to remediate them in the unfortunate event they show up, is responsible and shows your commitment to providing a safe and healthy environment for your tenants.

PROACTIVE STEPS

- Have a plan in place for bedbug surveillance and control. If you need help coming up with one, contact any of the resources on the front of this flyer for guidance.
- Have regular extermination or inspection efforts in your buildings.
- Educate your tenants and employees about bedbugs and your policies.
- Make sure your efforts and expectations are clearly outlined to tenants before moving in.

Ongoing awareness is critical as turnover is likely to occur. Make sure you keep your tenants in the loop and encourage compliance. No successful plan can be done alone; cooperation between tenant and landlords is critical in controlling bedbugs!

REACTIVE STEPS

Review information offered on websites and consult professionals when trying to get a problem under control.