



Housing Cambridge

Bedbugs are in the News

You may have seen or read news reports on the return of bedbugs to southern Ontario. At Housing Cambridge we have decided not to wait until they become a problem at our sites. We are now looking at ways to prevent them from showing up in the first place. To accomplish this Housing Cambridge staff and residents must work together. Remember, **bedbugs are no one's fault, but everyone's responsibility**.

Some **basic steps** that you can take to prevent bedbugs:

- **Wash all bedding regularly** in hot water. The water should be at least 120 degrees.
- **Vacuum floors regularly**. Use the brush tool of your vacuum to vacuum your mattress. Use the crevice tool to vacuum crevices in the mattress and your baseboards.
- **Use a plastic cover over your mattress**. Bedbugs can't hide on the plastic cover. These can be purchased at Canadian Tire or Walmart for \$25 - \$30.
- **If you purchase used furniture, examine it** for bed bugs. Pay special attention to used mattresses and bed frames.
- **Check your own bed** for bedbugs from time to time. Catching them early will make bedbug treatment easier if bedbugs do occur.

If you find evidence of bedbugs in your townhouse or apartment:

- **Do not** attempt to get rid of them yourself.
- **Report the problem** to Housing Cambridge maintenance staff **immediately**.
- Housing Cambridge will send out a **pest control professional** who will treat your unit and provide you with instructions on the steps that you will need to take to help resolve the problem. Housing Cambridge will cover the cost of the pest control professional as long as bedbugs are reported immediately.

Plan A is prevention. But if bedbugs do arrive, reporting and acting quickly is the key! Let's work together to make sure our sites remain bedbug free.

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