



## Bedbug Program

# Lafayette College Bedbug Program

Department of Public Safety – Environmental, Health and Safety

Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) #32 – Revised February 2024

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## **BEDBUG RESPONSE PROCEDURES**

### **INITIAL INSPECTION**

All initial concerns regarding bedbugs should be reported to Facilities Operations immediately (including nights and weekends).

Facilities Operations will then contact Ehrlich Pest Control (610-433-2231 for the on-duty technician and Mike Deeds at 484-707-3350) to immediately inspect the room. Facilities Operations will escort Ehrlich during the initial inspection. **The initial inspection occurs on the same day or night (including weekends and holidays) that the complaint is received.**

**If Ehrlich confirms that bedbugs are present, the following actions are taken immediately:**

1. Facilities Supervisors will notify the Director of Facilities Operations, Public Safety EHS, and Residence Life (or the on-call dean if after hours/weekend) that a bedbug issue was confirmed.
2. Contact and submit work order to Mechanical Trades and General Trades to prepare for heat treatment.
3. If situation warrants, Residence Life will temporarily relocate students to another room.

The Director or Associate Director for Facilities Operations will contact the Vice President for Finance and Administration with the results of Ehrlich's inspection.

After the initial inspection, the affected room will be scheduled to undergo treatment administered by Ehrlich, a licensed exterminator.

**Prior to treatment the following actions will be taken:**

1. EHS will contact the resident with the treatment schedule and preparation instructions. See Appendix A for the full set of instructions sent to students.
2. Facilities Operations will arrange for laundry service (Prestige Laundry Service 908-454-8807) and drop off linens and bags and tags for laundry at the student's room.
3. Facilities Operation will pick up the laundry bags.

### **TREATMENT**

The treatment of each affected area will include the following:

1. Heat Treatment and Sterifab Application
2. Canine Inspection
3. Furniture Replacement (coordinate schedule with Grounds)

Heat treatment, referred to as Entotherm, will be completed as soon as possible (typically within 24 hours of detection). The heat treatment uses specially designed equipment to raise the temperature in the room to kill the bedbugs. Bedbugs and eggs die within 90 minutes at 118°F (48°C) or immediately at 122°F (50°C). During heat treatment, the air temperature in the room is typically between 135°F (57.2°C) and 145°F (62.7 °C).

Remote thermometers are placed throughout the room to ensure target temperatures are reached. Heat treatment typically takes between six and eight hours, depending on the condition of the area being treated. During heat treatment the fire suppressant system will be covered and surrounded by an ice pack.

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Sterifab, a non-toxic EPA-approved insecticide, will be applied to furniture during heat treatment. Though Sterifab is a chemical, it is not a “bug bomb” and once dry (within 15 – 20 minutes) there is no transfer to fabric or skin.

Following treatment, Facilities Operations will, at a minimum, replace the mattress, bed board and bed. Also, Ehrlich will return to verify the treatments effectiveness by inspecting the room with a specially trained canine capable of detecting live bedbugs.

### **PROCEDURES FOR SUITES AND OFF-CAMPUS HOUSES**

If a bedroom in a suite or off-campus house is found to have bed bugs the following actions will be taken.

- Each resident will be notified that evidence of bed bugs was confirmed in a room in their suite or apartment by EHS.
- A perimeter application of Sterifab will be applied, however, there will be no treatment in unaffected rooms (affected rooms will be treated as described above).
- Each resident will be informed of the results of the treatment and post-treatment inspection by EHS.

# **Appendix A**

## Bedbug Treatment and Instructions

# LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Building: \_\_\_\_\_

Room: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Resident,

We want to follow up with you about an inspection that was done in your room. Facilities Operations and our outside pest control company, Ehrlich, have confirmed the presence of bedbugs in your room.

**Attached please find specific preparation instructions for you to follow prior to treatment.**

## Background information

- Bedbugs do not carry disease; however, their bites may cause allergic reactions and secondary bacterial infections from scratching.
- Bedbugs are not a sign of poor personal hygiene or cleanliness.
- Bedbugs can multiply quickly, so it is important to deal with them quickly and effectively.

## Lafayette's responsibilities

- Working with Ehrlich Pest Control to treat the space of concern.
- Replace affected furniture.

## Your responsibilities

- **Follow the provided preparation requirements.**
- Follow up with a health professional at Bailey Health Center for any bites of concern.
- Follow up immediately if you feel treatment has not contained the situation.

Bedbugs are an unpleasant nuisance, but with your help we will be able to eliminate them.

Thank you for your cooperation,

Office of Public Safety

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# LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

## Bedbug Treatment Schedule and Preparation Requirements

Due to the habits/biology of bedbugs, good preparation is critical to treatment success. To eliminate this pest in your room, these are the steps that are required to be performed by you prior to treatment.

### Heat Treatment

- Your room will be heated to at least 135°F. Once heat treatment begins, you may not re-enter your room for eight (8) hours.
- The College will have all of your clothing, blankets, and towels cleaned. Facilities Operations will drop off bags for all of your clothing, blankets, and towels. Please label the bags as “Dry Clean Only”, “Wash and Dry”, or “Clean – Dry Only”. Prior to heat treatment, the laundry bags will be picked up from your room.

Resident Preparations for Heat Treatment
Remove pets including (including fish and reptiles) and plants from the room.
Remove pictures, mirrors, and ornaments from walls and place on floor leaning against the wall. Remove any oil paintings from the room.
Place all medication, vitamins, candy, gum, and chocolate in refrigerator.
Remove all of your personal items from the wardrobe, desk, and other furniture used for storage. Leave the drawers and doors to furniture open, all College provided furniture will be treated. Throw away any cardboard boxes.
Remove un-refrigerated canned or bottled beverages such as wine, soda, and juice from room.
Remove aerosol cans.
Place all personal hygiene products such as deodorant, lipstick, cosmetics, toothpaste, liquid soaps in refrigerator.
Remove musical instruments. Leave cases behind in room.
Remove valuable or irreplaceable items such as old photographs, heirlooms, expensive jewelry to prevent breakage.

### Canine Inspection

- Following treatment, your room will be inspected by Ehrlich using a specially trained canine capable of detecting live bedbugs.

Heat Treatment Date and Time

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