

Dealing with Bed Bugs

WWU University Residence Facilities

About

Bed bugs are commonly found within 20 feet of a bed or other sleeping source. Once they infest a space, they can remain there for several months until someone starts sleeping in the area. These pests prefer hiding in cracks and corners, especially near wooden surfaces like dressers or baseboards, but they can also be found near non-wood items. Besides your bed, be vigilant in checking behind baseboards, in closets, on chairs, nightstands, clocks, and similar areas. Bed bugs are known to inhabit places where people frequent, such as boats, planes, and hospitals. To prevent them from hitchhiking into your home, remember to shake off your shoes before getting into your car and promptly launder your clothing upon returning home. Reducing clutter, frequent vacuuming, and refraining from picking up furniture from the roadside can help minimize the risk of infestations.

Responding to your call

If you suspect bed bugs in your room, please submit a ReADY request to report the issue and inform your RA or RD. Additionally, contact Facilities Management work control at 360-650-3420. If you discover a bug, please save it for identification purposes.

Once we receive your call, our team will carefully inspect your room, focusing on the bed, frame, mattress, and furniture. We kindly request that you resist cleaning the room before our inspection, as it makes it more challenging to find these critters if the area has been tidied up.

If no evidence of bed bugs is found, we will place sticky traps in the room and return for further checks. However, if bed bugs are discovered, we will employ a combination of management strategies for treatment, which may include traps, dust, vacuuming, and sprays, depending on the severity of the infestation. We will diligently monitor the situation after treatment to ensure the problem is resolved.



Treatment

If treatment is required, it is crucial to launder all bedding and washables in hot water and a hot dryer. Be cautious when transporting laundry items to the washer, as eggs, nymphs, and adults can fall off and spread the infestation. We can provide large bags for safely transporting your laundry, and remember to use a fresh, clean bag after laundering.

Before treatment, please remove excess boxes, magazines, and general clutter from your room and thoroughly vacuum. Ensure that we have easy access to the baseboards for spraying or dusting.

For items like suitcases, laptops, and shoes that cannot be laundered but require treatment, we can use chemical strips to address the issue