

Bed Bug Action Plan Hospital/Emergency Rooms

Bed bugs are hitchhiking pests who travel on the belongings of people. On occasion, they can be brought into hospital settings. In this setting, most cases are an introduction of a small number of bed bugs and not a large established infestation. Having multiple staff members trained to identify bed bugs from other insects is highly recommended and can defuse panic immediately. In the event of a patient being admitted into a hospital, or similar setting, and bed bugs are discovered on their person or belongings, the following steps are recommended.

1. Change the patient into hospital-issued gown or garments. Place the patient's clothing in a plastic bag, tie it shut, and carry it immediately to the laundry. Wash the clothing and dry it on a hot setting; this will eliminate any bed bugs or eggs. Dispose of the empty bag.
2. Isolate any backpacks, purses, or other belongings the patient may have brought with him or her; place them in large plastic bags and tie them shut, pending release from ER (or, if the patient is admitted, pending inspection by Wil-Kil Pest Control).
3. If the patient is to be admitted, move the patient (with only his or her hospital gown or other garments) to another room.
4. Contact Wil-Kil Pest Control, who will respond and:
 - Inspect the ER room or area, and treat if necessary
 - Inspect adjacent areas to which bed bugs may have spread from the original site of infestation, and treat if necessary
 - Install monitoring devices
 - Inspect the belongings that were isolated, and advise as to further treatment, if needed
5. If the patient was admitted, arrange for Wil-Kil to inspect the patient room to which the patient was moved, following the patient's release from the hospital.
6. Return the patient's clothing, luggage and other belongings to the patient when the patient is released from ER; or, if admitted, when the pest control technician is satisfied that they are free of bed bugs.

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