**Home Visiting & Bed Bugs**



While this outline specifically mentions bed bugs, it may also apply to other types of insects or pests.

*Remember : On-person infestations are uncommon*

If you visit homes where bed bug infestations are known and present, the following guidelines will be helpful when conducting a home visit:

* Avoid placing any items on upholstered furniture or bedding. This is the most common way to transfer bed bugs from one place to another.
* Do not sit on cloth-covered furniture or bedding. Pay attention to cracks and crevices of wooden or hard surface chairs as it is *possible* that bed bugs are hiding in these cracks and crevices.
* The safest place to sit would be in the kitchen on a non-upholstered chair; this is the place where you are least likely to encounter bed bugs.
* Bring only items necessary for the visit into the home. A plastic or metal clipboard can be used to hold paperwork.
* Store personal items securely in your car prior to arriving at the home.
* Have a separate pair of shoes in your car which you wear into homes with bed bug infestations and then store in a sealed plastic bag when not in use.

If bed bugs are suspected; upon completion of the visit:

* Perform a self- inspection. Pay attention to inside and outside of shoes, lace holes, socks, leg area and around hands and arms.

**IF** you find a bed bug, use wet wipes to contain or crush the insect. Wipe the surrounding areas with another wet wipe.

Notify your supervisor and return home and follow these guidelines:

* When you arrive home, remove your clothing (either in an attached garage or just inside the entry door).
* Place clothes in a plastic bag that can be tightly closed via a knot or twist tie.
* Wash clothing in hot, soapy water and dry in a dryer using the highest heat setting that the fabric can safely withstand.
* Any clothing that cannot be washed or dry cleaned should be placed in a dryer on medium high for at least 30 minutes.
* If items are taken to the dry cleaner, inform the cleaner of the possibility of bed bugs.

The following items may be useful to keep in your car:

Plastic grocery or garbage bags

Wet Wipes

Change of clothing/shoes

*These guidelines are based on those created by the Central Ohio Bed Bug Taskforce. Additional information provided by University of Minnesota Entomology and Minnesota Department of Agriculture*