

TENANT'S RESPONSIBILITY

- The faster you act, the better the results will be. When you spot bedbugs, immediately call your landlord.
- If your landlord doesn't take action, contact a representative from the Division des permis et des inspections for your borough.
- Don't try to solve the problem yourself.
- Keep your home clean and clutter-free.
- Carefully follow the exterminator's recommendations.



Reminder: Don't use insecticides sold over the counter. They may counteract with the treatment by a qualified exterminator and harm your health and your children's health.

**TO ENSURE SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT,
YOUR CO-OPERATION AND THAT OF YOUR
LANDLORD AND THE EXTERMINATOR ARE KEY.**

LANDLORD'S RESPONSIBILITY

- When notified about bedbugs, your landlord must immediately make efforts to correct the problem after first reaching an agreement with you.
- Your landlord must hire an exterminator that can completely eliminate all bedbugs.
- If need be, your landlord must enable exterminators to visit every room and every apartment in a building to stamp out the problem.

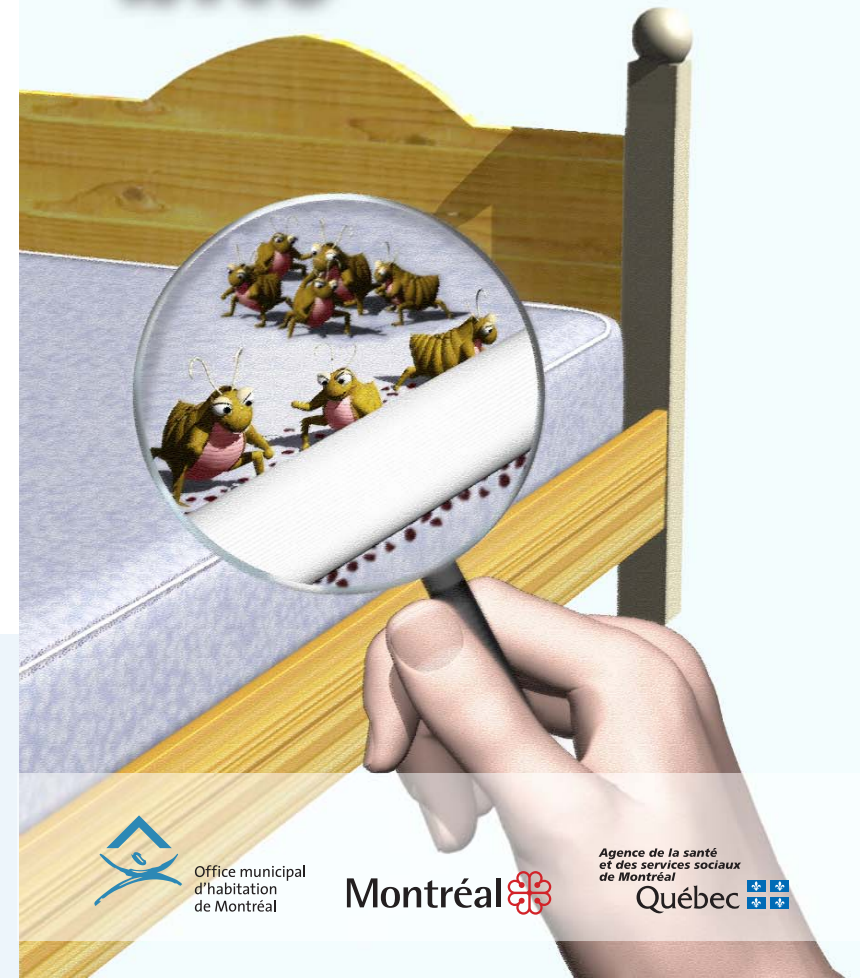
EXTERMINATOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

- Exterminators must make every effort to detect bedbugs throughout every room and every apartment in a building.
- Exterminators must make sure to destroy bedbugs at all stages of development (including eggs). This requires exterminators to return at least twice to apply insecticides and check whether the first treatment worked.
- Exterminators mustn't use insecticides needlessly. Children's mattresses can be treated with hot steam.

Produced by the communications department of the Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal (www.omhm.qc.ca), Ville de Montréal (www.ville.montreal.qc.ca), and Direction de santé publique de l'Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal (www.santepub-mtl.qc.ca), January 2009.

Don't let the bedbugs bite

Helpful tips for preventing
and eliminating bedbugs



Any house, apartment or building can be a haven for bedbugs.
No need to be embarrassed if these bugs end up moving in with you.

The important thing is to act fast. As soon as you see these bugs, call your landlord,
who will then contact a qualified exterminator.

BEDBUGS

Bedbugs are brownish insects. They're about 4 mm long (1/8 in.) and visible to the naked eye. They're active at night and can usually be seen along the seams of mattresses. They feed on human blood.

WARNING!
Bedbugs are back with a vengeance! Act now!

Bedbug infestations cause problems for humans and pets. Over the past few years, bedbugs have been spreading in large cities, including Montreal.

How to detect them

Itchy skin and insect bites are clues that you have bedbugs in your bed. Also look for blood on your sheets and pillows and black dots on mattress seams. Bedbug bites look like mosquito bites. They cause itching that can disturb your sleep. You'll usually see three or four bites in a straight line or grouped together. Exposed areas of your arms, legs and back are more susceptible to bites.

How they spread

Bedbugs are usually brought into your home in suitcases and handbags and on clothing and furniture, especially mattresses.

They can also travel between apartments in a building.



What to do even if you don't have them

- Vacuum your home regularly. If you do have bedbugs, make sure you close the vacuum bag tightly and dispose of it outside your home.
- Keep an eye out for bug bites and itchy skin.

HOW TO PREVENT THEM

Bedbugs and other pests can be carried into your home on used clothing and used furniture, especially mattresses and armchairs.

BE CAREFUL WITH USED CLOTHING AND FURNITURE

Avoid picking up used mattresses or second-hand upholstered furniture because it's hard to see whether they harbour bedbugs.

Other used furniture must be carefully inspected and cleaned before you bring it home. Scrub furniture with soapy water or a household cleaning product to remove any possible bedbugs.

Used clothing must be placed in a sealed plastic bag and put directly in the washing machine. Wash with hot water to kill bedbugs and their eggs.

Important

Also avoid bringing home items found outside or in the garbage. They may be infested.

EXTERMINATION

Tenants are responsible for notifying their landlord when they find insects in their home.

Preparing your home for the exterminator

This step is extremely important. Closely follow the exterminator's guidelines. Below are a few tips to keep in mind.

- Wash all bedding in hot water (sheets, mattress covers, bedspreads).
- Vacuum and dispose of the vacuum bag (outside the home).
- Empty dresser drawers and closets and wash clothes in hot water or at the cleaner's.
- Put all clothing in tightly closed plastic bags until all insects have been eliminated.
- Remove clutter.
- Consult an exterminator before disposing of furniture.
- Don't bring home new furniture until the extermination is fully complete.



Important: Wash all clothing in hot water with laundry detergent. Don't hang your laundry in the laundry room before washing it.