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## SURROUNDING UNITS

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### **The Importance of Surrounding Units**

Recently, there has been an exponential increase of bed bug infestations and consequently several lawsuits filed in the past few years. In New York, there was a precedent setting case where the court ruled in favor of the tenant, one of the major deciding factors was that, although the management company was responsive in treating the infested unit, they did not expand the scope of their effort to include surrounding units in the building. The legal importance of addressing surrounding units is clear, but there are things about the bed bug's behavior that warrants attention be paid to these units.

Concerns with surrounding units include

- uninfested units becoming infested as bed bugs migrate from the unit reporting bed bugs;
- sometimes a surrounding unit is the source of an area's infestation. Requiring surrounding unit inspections may be the only way you find this out.

### **Supporting Research on Surrounding Units**

A study took a look at bed bug infested rooms in 750 hotels. All of the surrounding rooms that shared a wall with infested units were inspected. Approximately 20% of the time bed bugs were found in one or more of the surrounding rooms.

In response to this data, our technicians will examined the movement of bed bugs between apartment units and found the results to be startlingly similar. When we were given the opportunity to inspect adjacent units, bed bugs were present in one or more of those units nearly 28% of the time.

Based on these findings, we recommend you inspect all units that share a common wall with each infested unit.

## Inspection & Treatment Options

Our company has several different options for inspection and treatment of surrounding units that can be incorporated into your bed bug management program. Inspection and treatment options include:

**Basic Inspection:** can detect large populations of bed bugs that have left evidence on the walls and other obvious locations. If you choose, technicians will install insect interceptors around at-risk furniture.

**Standard Inspection:** can detect bed bugs that are starting to move into more apparent locations such as the edges of the mattress or walls. If you choose, technicians will install insect interceptors around at-risk furniture.

**Intensive Inspection:** can detect low level infestations that may be restricted to the bottom of the box spring or the underside of the couch. If you choose, technicians will install insect interceptors around at-risk furniture.

**Baseboard Treatment:** this is an application of pesticide to the baseboard that could eliminate any insects walking along the baseboards as well as stir-up bed bugs that could not previously be detected and make them more obvious to the tenant or technician inspecting the unit.

**Encasements:** by encasing the beds in our Protect-A-Bed Bug Lock™ mattress and box spring encasements in the surrounding units you will ease future inspections of the beds as well as restrict bed bugs from getting inside the complex box spring and mattress.

**Adjacent wall crack and crevice work:** by treating all voids, cracks and crevices on the walls that are adjacent to the infested unit, you can possibly prevent bed bugs from entering the surrounding unit that has yet to be infested.

**Standard Treatment:** two technicians do a full bed bug treatment and the necessary follow ups.

## Concluding Remarks

Remember that one key to bed bug management is finding and addressing bed bug infestations while they are still at low levels. By inspecting and possibly treating surrounding units before a problem is reported, you can catch an infestation before it becomes established and address the issue before it becomes a concern.

**REMEMBER: THE SUCCESS OF THIS SERVICE DEPENDS UPON YOUR COOPERATION.**