

**CENTRAL TEXAS HOUSING CONSORTIUM**  
**TEMPLE HOUSING AUTHORITY                      BELTON HOUSING AUTHORITY**

**BARBARA B. BOZON, CPA**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Central Texas Housing Consortium Residents  
RE: Bed Bug Information

July 24, 2013

Over the past few years, communities all over the United States have been experiencing bed bug infestations. The media continues to report on these "unwanted visitors" in hotel and apartment communities nationwide. Due to the continued concern of bed bugs, we have created the enclosed flyer on how to prevent getting bed bugs and what to do if you think you have them.

If you have any questions, please contact your Complex Manager.

Barbara B. Bozon, CPA  
Executive Director



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**What you should know about bed bugs!**

**What are bed bugs?**

Bed bugs are a wingless insect that feed off the blood of humans and other mammals. They are rusty brown in color and their young are difficult to see. Hatchling bed bugs are the size of a sesame seed, while adults are around a quarter of an inch in size with a flattened oval shape. Bed bugs feed at night when their hosts (animals and humans) are asleep. While bed bugs are not known to carry any diseases, their bite can cause serious itching.



**Where do they live?**

Since they are flat creatures, they can conceal themselves in the cracks and crevices of a room or within furniture. They can be found in bed frames, mattresses, or box springs. They can also appear in spaces that are cluttered. Folds and creases in bed sheets, as well as curtains are common places for bed bugs to reside.

**How do they spread?**

Due to their size, bed bugs can hide in luggage, furniture, clothing, pillows, boxes and other objects that are transported between places. **Used furniture** has the greatest risk of carrying bed bugs and their eggs.

**How do you know if you have bed bugs?**

One clear indicator of bed bugs is if you or your family members complain about bites that occur while sleeping. Other characteristic of bed bugs are small rusty looking spots on mattresses and bed linens that could be bed bug droppings or blood spots.



**How to prevent bed bugs?**

- Do not bring clothing, furniture or any items into your home that has been used by others unless it has been inspected by a licensed pest control company. **(avoid curbside items)**
- Reduce clutter to eliminate hiding places for bed bugs.
- Put clothing in a hot dryer for at least twenty minutes to kill bed bugs.
- Cover mattress and box springs with plastic covers.
- Vacuum and sweep regularly.
- Hang clothing in closet and away from bedding.

**What should you do if you suspect bed bugs?**

- Call your complex manager immediately. Maintenance will then inspect your unit to determine if you have bed bugs. Once maintenance confirms bed bugs, a scheduled treatment will be done by a contracted pest control company.



**Recognizing the signs of bed bugs and taking immediate steps to reduce their population can greatly lessen the risk of a severe infestation and improve steps towards pest-free housing.**