



Bed Bug Addendum

Date of Lease: January 1, 2018
(when the Lease is filled out)

Please note: We want to maintain a high-quality living environment for you. It's important to work together to minimize the potential for bed bugs in your dwelling and others. This addendum outlines your responsibility and potential liability when it comes to bed bugs. It also gives you some important information about them.

1. Addendum. This is an addendum to the Lease Contract that you, the resident or residents, signed on the dwelling you have agreed to rent. That dwelling is:
Apt. # _____ at _____

_____ (name of apartments)
or other dwelling located at _____
_____ (street address of house, duplex, etc.)
_____ (city)
_____ **TX** _____ (state) _____ (zip).

2. Purpose. This addendum modifies the Lease Contract to address any infestation of bed bugs (*Cimex lectularius*) that might be found in the dwelling or on your personal property. We will rely on representations that you make to us in this addendum.

3. Inspection. (Check one)
 You have inspected the dwelling before moving in or signing this addendum, and you did not find any evidence of bed bugs or bed-bug infestation.
OR
 You will inspect the dwelling within 48 hours after moving in or signing this addendum and will notify us of any bed bugs or bed-bug infestation.

4. Infestations. We are not aware of any current evidence of bed bugs or bed-bug infestation in the dwelling. You must read the information on the back of this addendum and then certify one of the following statements: **(check one)**
 You are not aware of any infestation or presence of bed bugs in your current or previous apartment, home, or dwelling or in any of your furniture, clothing, personal property, or possessions, nor have you been exposed to any bed-bug infestation or presence.
OR
 If you previously lived anywhere that had a bed-bug infestation, all your personal property (including furniture, clothing, and other belongings) has been treated by a licensed pest-control professional and is now free of further infestation.

If you disclose a previous experience of bed-bug infestation, we can review documentation of the treatment and inspect your personal property and possessions to confirm the absence of bed bugs. Describe here any previous bed-bug infestation that you may have experienced: _____

5. Access for Inspection and Pest Treatment. You must allow us and our pest-control agents access to the dwelling at reasonable times to inspect for or treat bed bugs. You and your family members, occupants, guests, and invitees must cooperate and not interfere with inspections or treatments. We have the right to select any licensed pest-control professional to treat the dwelling and building. We can select the method of treating the dwelling, building, and common areas for bed bugs. We can also inspect and treat adjacent or neighboring dwellings to the infestation, even if those dwellings are not the source or cause of the known infestation. Si-

multaneously as we treat the dwelling, you must, at your expense, have your personal property, furniture, clothing, and possessions treated according to accepted treatment methods by a licensed pest-control firm that we approve. If you fail to do so, you will be in default and we will have the right to terminate your right of occupancy and exercise all rights and remedies under the Lease Contract. You agree not to treat the dwelling for a bed-bug infestation on your own.

6. Notification. You must promptly notify us:

- of any known or suspected bed-bug infestation or presence in the dwelling, or in any of your clothing, furniture, or personal property;
- of any recurring or unexplained bites, stings, irritations, or sores on the skin or body that you believe are caused by bed bugs, or by any condition or pest you believe is in the dwelling;

AND

- if you discover any condition or evidence that might indicate the presence or infestation of bed bugs, or if you receive any confirmation of bed-bug presence by a licensed pest-control professional or other authoritative source.

7. Cooperation. If we confirm the presence or infestation of bed bugs, you must cooperate and coordinate with us and our pest-control agents to treat and eliminate them. You must follow all directions from us or our agents to clean and treat the dwelling and building that are infested. You must remove or destroy personal property that cannot be treated or cleaned before we treat the dwelling. Any items you remove from the dwelling must be disposed of off-site and not in the property's trash receptacles. If we confirm the presence or infestation of bed bugs in your dwelling, we have the right to require you to temporarily vacate the dwelling and remove all furniture, clothing, and personal belongings so we can perform pest-control services. If you don't cooperate with us, you will be in default and we will have the right to terminate your right of occupancy and exercise all rights and remedies under the Lease Contract.

8. Responsibilities. You may be required to pay all reasonable costs of cleaning and pest-control treatments incurred by us to treat your dwelling unit for bed bugs. If we confirm the presence or infestation of bed bugs after you move out, you may be responsible for the cost of cleaning and pest control. If we have to move other residents in order to treat adjoining or neighboring dwellings to your dwelling unit, you may have to pay any lost rental income and other expenses we incur to relocate the neighboring residents and to clean and perform pest-control treatments to eradicate infestations in other dwellings. If you don't pay us for any costs you are liable for, you will be in default and we will have the right to terminate your right of occupancy and exercise all rights and remedies under the Lease Contract, and we may take immediate possession of the dwelling. If you don't move out after your right of occupancy has been terminated, you will be liable for holdover rent under the Lease Contract.

9. Transfers. If we allow you to transfer to another dwelling in the community because of the presence of bed bugs, you must have your personal property and possessions treated according to accepted treatment methods or procedures established by a licensed pest-control professional. You must provide proof of such cleaning and treatment to our satisfaction.

You are legally bound by this document. Please read it carefully.

Resident or Residents (all sign below)

Owner or Owner's Representative (sign below)

(Name of Resident) Date signed

(Name of Resident) Date signed

Date signed

You are entitled to receive a copy of this Addendum after it is fully signed. Keep it in a safe place.

Bed Bugs

A Guide for Rental-Housing Residents

(Adapted with permission from the National Apartment Association)

Bed bugs are wingless, flat, broadly oval-shaped insects, with a typical lifespan of 6 to 12 months. Capable of reaching the size of an apple seed at full growth, bed bugs are distinguishable by their reddish-brown color, although after feeding on the blood of humans and warm-blooded animals—their sole food source—the bugs assume a distinctly blood-red hue until digestion is complete.

Bed bugs don't discriminate.

Bed bugs' increased presence across the United States in recent decades is due largely to a surge in international travel and trade. It's no surprise then that bed bugs have been found in some of the fanciest hotels and apartment buildings in some of the nation's most expensive neighborhoods.

Nonetheless, false claims that associate bed bug presence with poor hygiene and uncleanliness have caused rental-housing residents, out of shame, to avoid notifying owners of their presence. This only causes the bed bugs to spread.

While bed bugs are more attracted to clutter, they're certainly not discouraged by cleanliness. Bottom line: bed bugs know no social or economic bounds; claims to the contrary are false.

Bed bugs don't transmit disease.

There exists no scientific evidence that bed bugs carry disease. In fact, federal agencies tasked with addressing pests of public-health concern, namely the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, have refused to elevate bed bugs to the threat level posed by disease-carrying pests. Again, claims associating bed bugs with disease are false.

Learn to identify bed bugs.

Bed bugs can often be found in, around, behind, under, or between:

- Bedding
- Bed frames
- Mattress seams
- Upholstered furniture, especially under cushions and along seams
- Wood furniture, especially along areas where drawers slide
- Curtains and draperies
- Window and door frames
- Ceiling and wall junctions
- Crown moldings
- Wall hangings and loose wallpaper
- Carpeting and walls (carpet can be pulled away from the wall and tack strip)
- Cracks and crevices in walls and floors
- Electronic devices, such as smoke and carbon-monoxide detectors

Because bed bugs leave some people with itchy welts similar to those made by fleas and mosquitoes, the

cause of welts like that often go misdiagnosed. One distinguishing sign is that bed-bug marks often appear in succession on exposed areas of the skin such as the face, neck, and arms. But sometimes a person has no visible reaction at all from direct contact with bed bugs.

While bed bugs typically act at night, they often leave signs of their presence through fecal markings of a red to dark-brown color, visible on or near beds. Blood stains also tend to appear when the bugs have been squashed, usually by an unsuspecting sleeping host. And because they shed, it's not uncommon to find the skin casts they leave behind.

Prevent bed-bug encounters when traveling.

Because humans serve as bed bugs' main mode of transportation, it's especially important to be mindful of bed bugs when away from home. Experts attribute the spread of bed bugs across all regions of the United States largely to increases in travel and trade, both here and abroad. So travelers are encouraged to take a few minutes on arriving to thoroughly inspect their accommodations before unpacking. Because bed bugs can easily travel from one place to another, it's also a good practice to thoroughly inspect luggage and belongings for bed bugs before heading home.

Know the bed-bug dos and don'ts.

- **Don't** bring used furniture from unknown sources into your dwelling. Countless bed-bug infestations have stemmed directly from bringing home second-hand and abandoned furniture. Unless you are absolutely sure that a piece of second-hand furniture is bed-bug-free, you should assume that a seemingly nice looking leather couch, for example, is sitting curbside waiting to be hauled off to the landfill because it's teeming with bed bugs.
- **Do** inspect rental furniture, including mattresses and couches, for the presence of bed bugs before moving it into your dwelling.
- **Do** address bed-bug sightings immediately. Rental-housing residents who suspect the presence of bed bugs in their unit must immediately notify the owner.
- **Don't** try to treat bed-bug infestations yourself. Health hazards associated with the misapplication of traditional and nontraditional chemical-based insecticides and pesticides poses too great a risk to you, your family and pets, and your neighbors.
- **Do** comply with eradication protocol. If the determination is made that your unit is indeed playing host to bed bugs, you must comply with the bed-bug-eradication protocol set forth by both your owner and their designated pest-management company.

