

Getting rid of bed bugs if you are a renter



What are bed bugs?

Bed bugs are tiny bugs that can't fly. They eat the blood of people and animals. They hide in beds and in tiny spaces. Anyone can have bed bugs, even in a clean home.

Bed-bug bites look like mosquito or flea bites. They don't make you sick. But the bites can get infected with germs. Do you think you have bed bug bites? Ask your doctor what to put on them.

How do you get rid of bed bugs?

They are hard to get rid of. You must work with a **company that kills bugs**. They may vacuum, spray bug killer, use hot steam, or even freeze the bugs.

But the company can't get rid of bed bugs by themselves. **You must do everything the company tells you to.** They will tell you how to get rid of bugs on your stuff. They may tell you to get rid of some of your things, like mattresses. If you don't do what they say, you will still have bed bugs. Moving out won't help. The bed bugs can go with you on your furniture, your boxes, or on your body.

Does the landlord have to pay for the company that kills bugs?

Look at your lease. Your lease may say that your landlord will pay to get rid of bugs. What if your lease doesn't say that? Then you may have to pay for it.

Legal Aid Society

of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland

1-800-238-1443

It's a free call.

On the internet at www.las.org