

# CHICAGO'S BED BUG ORDINANCE

A Factsheet From Midwest Pesticide Action Center

**Chicago passed a new law that declares bed bugs a public nuisance and provides guidance for controlling them. Here is a summary of what the ordinance says:**

## When did it start?

Chicago's new bed bug ordinance went into effect on December 23, 2013.

## What does it do?

The ordinance changes Chicago's laws so that bed bugs can be better controlled. It tells citizens of Chicago what their responsibilities are for controlling bed bugs in multi-unit buildings, including condominiums. The ordinance clearly places most of the responsibility for bed bug control on landlords but tenants have responsibilities, too.

## What are the Landlord's Responsibilities?

The ordinance says that landlords must:

- Attach the City's bed bug brochure (<http://bit.ly/Zdut1M>) to new and renewed leases.
- Provide and pay for inspection and treatment services.
- Hire a professional pest control operator to provide inspection and treatment services.
- Respond to a report of bed bugs within 10 days with inspection and, if needed, treatment services.

## What are MY (the Tenant's) Responsibilities?

The ordinance says tenants must:

- Report a suspected bed bug problem within 5 days, in writing, to management.
- Cooperate with the landlord for inspection, control, and treatment of bed bugs (there are exemptions for special housing circumstances; see full ordinance for details).
  - Allow access to your unit at reasonable times for bed bug inspection or treatment.
  - Prepare unit for inspection or treatment as requested by the pest control operator.
  - Properly dispose of personal property that a professional pest control operator has determined cannot be treated for bed bugs.

## Other Important Ordinance Requirements

### Disposal of Infested Property

Infested items left in alleys, basements, and curbs may spread the problem to others. To prevent this from happening it is extremely important to dispose of items properly!

- Mark infested items (e.g. "BED BUGS DO NOT USE"). Keep items enclosed in a plastic bag until properly disposed of
- DO NOT discard or dispose of any bedding, clothing, or other materials infested with bed bugs on the public way (example: alley, sidewalk, hallway, or common room)
- DO NOT recycle infested property

### Enforcement of Ordinance

The ordinance is enforced by Chicago's Department of Buildings and the Department of Public Health.

- A tenant has 5 days to report a suspected bed bug problem via written notice, and must cooperate with subsequent control activities
- A landlord has 10 days after receiving the notice to begin control activities such as inspection and, if needed, treatment for bed bugs using a pest management professional
- If either party is not complying, call 311 to report the violation. Your call will be routed to the Department of Buildings and a city inspector will be sent out.

Any person (including tenants) found in violation of the ordinance, may face penalties of \$300.00 (1st offence) to \$2,000 (2nd offence) per day per violation within a 12 month period.

To view the full ordinance visit [www.cityofchicago.org](http://www.cityofchicago.org) and search for "bedbugs", or go directly to <http://bit.ly/1dR6ggH>