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 and search for “bedbugs”, or go directly to http://bit.ly/1dR6ggH