

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF EASTMAN
Bedbug Control and Prevention Policy
Approved May 15, 2012
Revised Approval December 23, 2013

This Statement of Bedbug Control and Prevention Policy is established for the Housing Authority of the City of Eastman, Georgia.

The Purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the Eastman Housing Authority staff, applicants and residents for prevention and control of bedbug infestations.

Tenants are to immediately report the suspicion of possible bedbugs in a housing unit or other areas of the property to the Housing Authority Management. Early reporting allows the pests to be identified and treated before the infestation spreads. Tenants are the first line of defense against bedbug infestations and should create living environments that deter bedbugs. This includes reducing unreasonable amounts of clutter that create hiding places for bedbugs, and regular checking of beds and laundering of linens. Bed bugs are great “hitchhikers” and unknowingly get into luggage, clothing, blankets, pillows, pet bedding and even souvenirs so they can easily spread from place to place. Bed bugs have been found in homes, apartments, hotels, motels, health care facilities, dormitories, shelters, schools and all types of transportation. Because of their “hitchhiker” abilities, once they are in an apartment it is often impossible to find out where they came from. However it is very important to take steps to prevent them from spreading and to get rid of them.

- The Authority may not deny tenancy to a potential resident on the basis of the tenant having experienced a prior bedbug infestation, nor will residential preference be given to any applicant and/or tenant based on a response to a question regarding prior exposure to bedbugs. The Authority may require an inspection of household belongings prior to lease up.
- It is the Tenants responsibility to help prevent bed bug infestations by keeping the unit clear of clutter, inspecting any furniture or used clothing before bringing it into your unit; especially used or abandoned furniture.
- It is the Tenants responsibility to notify the Authority management immediately of bed bugs in your unit.
- A tenant reporting bedbugs may expect expeditious response and attention by the Authority, but should be advised that inspection and, if necessary, treatment of bedbugs may take time to schedule. The inspections should occur within three calendar days of the tenant report when possible.



- Following a report of bedbugs, the Authority or a qualified third party trained in bedbug detection should inspect the dwelling unit to determine if bedbugs are present. The Authority may enter the unit to perform these activities, in accordance with the lease.
- If bedbug infestation is found in the unit, the tenant may expect treatment to begin within five days of the inspection, though depending on the form of treatment, this may not be possible. Tenants will be advised that treatment will consist in multiple treatments over a several week period based on the infestation.
- It is the responsible of the Tenants to cooperate with the Authority staff and Pest Control Professionals. Tenants are responsible for following the written Preparation List issued by Authority and instructions from Pest Control Professional at time of treatment.
- Tenants will not place infested furniture or other items on front porch, back porch or yard area. Tenants must call Maintenance Department to schedule pickup of items to be discarded.
- The Authority will notify you if the apartment next to yours has bed bugs and to also have your unit inspected for bed bugs.
- The tenant will not be reimbursed the cost of any additional expense to the household, such as purchase of new furniture, clothing or cleaning services.
- The Housing Authority will pay for the treatment of the first confirmed case of bedbugs; however, the tenant will be responsible for paying for the treatment of any additional confirmed cases of bedbugs.
- Tenants that experience multiple infestations of bedbugs due to not keeping their units clear of litter or bringing bedbugs into their units; or that fail to provide pest management professionals with access to their unit; or that fail to complete the necessary preparations as detailed in the written Preparation List instructions as provided by the Housing Authority/Pest Management Professional will be in violation of their Lease for health and safety reasons which will result in eviction.

