

## Bed Bugs

Bed bugs cause more than discomfort and pain. Bed bug infestations have economic, social, and legal ramifications (Potter 2006). Thus, it is critical to act early to prevent bed bug infestations from becoming chronic and incurring much greater health and economic consequences.

Scientific study shows that bedbugs travel down hallways and spread under apartment doors. This makes the installation of FASST Seals™ a necessity in hotels, apartments, medical facilities, senior housing, university and school dormitories and nursing homes.

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“Several important characteristics of bed bug infestation and dispersal were observed in this study. First, bed bug infestations have potential to spread into many rooms within a building after introduction. Second, bed bugs frequently disperse through entry doors to the hallways. Third, a large percentage of residents may be unaware of extant bed bug infestations in their apartments. Fourth, bed bug control efforts by either residents themselves or by a contracted pest control professional are often ineffective in eliminating bed bug infestations. Fifth, bed bug interceptors are an effective tool in estimating bed bug populations and evaluating the effectiveness of bed bug management programs.

Bed bugs were frequently intercepted beside entry doors of the infested apartments. Although chemical lures were used in the interceptors to detect bed bug dispersal, a separate study in nine apartments indicated that the presence of lures did not significantly increase the number of trapped bed bugs (our unpublished data). Thus, we considered the counts from interceptors placed at entry doors or in the hallways to be random catches of bed bugs that were passing through those areas. Furthermore, it is likely that more bed bugs dispersed through the doors and hallways without being detected. Besides doorways, bed bugs may disperse through common walls of adjacent units. This study was not designed to investigate the presence and frequency of these dispersal venues. However, we found bed bugs hiding in electrical outlets, corners of ceilings, and behind baseboards on the floors. When pathways to the neighboring units exist from these sites, bed bugs can migrate into the neighboring units (on the same floor level, immediately above or below the infested unit) through walls or ceilings. Because bed bugs will disperse to the hallways and their dispersal frequency is positively correlated with bed bug population levels, building-wide bed bug monitoring and treatment programs must be in place to effectively eradicate bed bugs in a building. Simultaneous treatment will reduce bed bug dispersal and help achieve building-wide bed bug elimination.

Doggett and Russell

(2008) reported that the number of bed bug-infested units in a 320-room medical facility increased from 1 to 68 rooms in 50 mo, suggesting that bed bugs have the potential to spread within a building once introduced.