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Online training available:

<https://eces.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Pest Management in and Around Structures:

<http://www.eXtension.org/>

Contact us:

<http://schoolipm.ifas.ufl.edu/>

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Florida School IPM Focus- Bed Bugs: Infestation v/s Introduction

This issue covers a very important topic- Bed Bugs: Infestation v/s Introduction. Over the last few months new resources and information have become available on bed bug management. We have received numerous requests to provide more info in the newsletter on bed bugs. Please check out our original SIPM News with a focus on **Bed Bugs** from November of last year. We will be adding new information as well as a package of material for schools over the next few weeks, be sure to check out our **bed bug page** for all the latest material. The best material developed is the material that gets put to use in the field and provides consistent results. With this in mind we would like to encourage you to review and use the following resources.

Know the difference: Introduction v/s Infestation



An **infestation** can be defined as having virtually all of the life-cycle was present (eggs, nymphs and adults). Finding bed bugs on students will most likely be classified as an **introduction** into the classroom as opposed to finding bed bugs in the environment (usually classroom), even if the student's jacket or backpack may contain more than one stage of the bed bug life cycle.

Tips for dealing with bed bugs in schools

1. De-cluttering is an activity that makes all IPM activities work better. A clean, clutter free environment reduces pest pressure.
2. Use monitoring and inspection as a part of bed bug PREVENTION, then reporting sightings to the appropriate contact. (The line of communication is specific to each school district. If you find bed bugs do not keep them a secret, this will only make the problem worse.)
 - It is important for a school nurse or other school health professional to do the inspection of the child.
 - If bed bugs are found on a student, then the parents of that student should be notified.
 - If the bed bugs are found infesting the classroom, the parents of the students in the class should be notified.

- At the time the parent is contacted, request a clean change of clothes, sealed in a plastic bag. (Putting clothes dryers on site and using heat as a method to kill bed bugs that came in on clothing, back packs, etc. is another management possibility.)

A final recommendation is to adjust your expectation of what control means where bed bugs are concerned. There are no quick fixes to this issue.

NPMA Bed Bug BMPs

NPMA has released bed bug best management practices (BMPs). These are a product of the NPMA Blue Ribbon Bed Bug Task Force and involved the most transparent, stakeholder driven process ever employed by NPMA. We believe the BMPs are tough, credible and practical and will provide PMPs, facility managers and consumers the tools they need to make informed decisions.

The BMPs are available several ways:

A downloadable version of the actual BMPs and a less technical consumer version are available in English and Spanish, as is an overview brochure that provides a “Cliff’s Notes” version of the BMPs. These may all be [viewed here](#).

We are pleased to answer any questions or provide any additional information you need and encourage you to distribute these to anybody you believe has an interest.

Bob Rosenberg, National Pest Management Association
Senior Vice President

News!

We hope you will submit news items and would be happy to help you write a story if you have an idea but don’t have the time to write up the information. This newsletter will be published as content arrives, please keep the information flowing! Please send news items to [Jennifer Gillett-Kaufman](#).

Visit our website for back issues of [Florida School IPM News](#).