

Property Maintenance Code 1306.34, Responsibility for Pest Management Summary

- The maintenance of all occupiable structures is the sole responsibility of property owners and/or their agents.
- All occupiable structures must be maintained pest-free, and property owners are responsible for eliminating infestations.
- Tenants have a duty to report possible infestations and to cooperate by allowing reasonable access to their unit and work with the owner's agents to follow treatment protocols.
- When a tenant reports a possible or known infestation, the landlord must notify all contiguous units in writing. That includes units on either side and above and below the affected unit.
- If there are 4 or more units in a building and pesticides are used, they must be applied by a state licensed applicator.
- For units of 3 or less the LABEL IS THE LAW with pesticides, and must be strictly followed to prevent exposure to harmful chemicals. The Ohio Department of Agriculture can prosecute those owners who misuse pesticides.
- Check out the City of Lakewood's website for best practices. Following the guidelines there will ensure quicker elimination and resolution. Make sure to review the pamphlet "Preventing and Getting Rid of Bedbugs Safely" before starting any treatment plan.
- Owners who fail to comply with the Ordinance can be issued a correction notice by the Division of Housing and Building, and continued failure to eliminate infestations may result in criminal prosecution.
- Property owners who are most successful in eliminating bedbugs have a pro-active year-round maintenance schedule to check and treat for all pests, including bedbugs. An environment where the tenant feels comfortable reporting any suspected pest infestations leads to the quickest resolution.
- Take the time to review the materials provided by the City of Lakewood on Best Practices and speak to industry professionals so you put in place a pro-active maintenance schedule that keeps your structure pest-free.
- For additional information go to the City's website at www.onelakewood.com/bed-bugs or call Lakewood Alive at 216-521-0655.