

QUITMAN HOUSING AUTHORITY
BED BUG POLICY
Reference: PIH 2012-17

Bed bugs are a growing national problem, and as a result, this policy has been created for the protection of Quitman Housing Authority (QHA) residents and their guests. The purpose of this policy is to set forth the roles and responsibilities of all parties (QHA and Resident) in minimizing the potential for bed bugs. The policy will also provide guidance in cases where bed bugs are present in order to eliminate them as quickly as possible.

Bed bugs are difficult to contain without proper treatment. Therefore it is imperative that all parties work simultaneously toward a common goal, extermination and elimination. Left untreated, bed bugs can spread throughout a residence affecting current and future residents as well as neighbors on all sides of the infested unit.

Quitman Housing Authority Roles and Responsibilities:

Upon notification from the tenant, QHA, within 24 hours, will contact the tenant with information about the control and prevention of bed bugs and discuss measures the tenant may be able to take in the unit before the inspection is performed.

QHA, within 3 business days of a tenant complaint if possible, should perform an initial inspection of the resident's dwelling unit. If it is determined that bed bugs are present, QHA will provide the resident with the "QHA Resident Roles and Responsibilities" document. This document will be explained to the resident to ensure understanding and compliance prior to treatment. In addition, QHA will secure the resident's signature indicating understanding of the document. Upon successful completion by the resident of their roles and responsibilities QHA will professionally treat the residence and perform follow-up to ensure treatment was successful.

In order to educate residents and minimize potential for the presence of bed bugs, QHA has created a "Prevention Tips" document.

Resident Roles and Responsibilities:

HUD regulations require the resident's cooperation in order to successfully eliminate the presence of bed bugs. Therefore, it is the resident's responsibility to report the suspicion or presence of bed bugs as soon as the presence of bed bugs is suspected. This will allow QHA to address the potential infestation at its onset and before it affects other residents. In addition, resident must be onsite when the initial inspection is conducted. If it is determined by QHA that bed bugs are present, the resident must complete all items listed on the "QHA & Resident Roles

and Responsibilities" prior to treatment and as soon as possible. This will help to minimize the severity of bed bug presence and resolve the problem quickly. A resident may be deemed in violation of, but not limited to, section 14(a and b), of their lease agreement if they fail to fully cooperate and comply with the roles and responsibilities.