

Bed Bug Policy

Tyson Library actively works toward the prevention and containment of bed bugs and bed bug eggs in all materials and on library premises. Tyson Library ensures its staff is trained in bed bug detection, containment, elimination, and prevention. The staff also regularly examines and updates its procedures according to best practices.

Tyson Library works proactively to:

- Reduce risk to staff and patrons.
- Monitor our detection, testing, and response levels on an ongoing basis.
- Contract only license, accredited, and reputable pest detection and control companies.

Prevention Protocol and Procedures

Tyson Library recognizes all patrons and staff have a role to play in controlling bed bugs in our community. All patrons should immediately report any sighting of live or dead bed bugs to library staff.

Staff Protocol

Staff will routinely inspect all incoming materials, including those returned at the public desks, in the book drop and through inter-library load delivery, for signs that bed bugs are or have been present. These signs include live or dead bed bug, bed bug eggs, bed bug nymphs, and feces and spotting associated with bed bugs.

Materials returned to Tyson Library with detected presence of live or dead bed bugs will be treated and discarded at the discretion of the library. Discarded items will be considered as damaged items under the Damaged Materials Policy.

All items identified by library staff as potentially containing live or dead bed bugs in any stage will be promptly quarantined. Items with minor or suspected signs will be promptly placed in a specialized heat treatment system that adheres to industry standards and is specifically designed to kill bed bugs.

After treatment, all materials will undergo another inspection.

Any materials returned by a patron that show evidence of live or dead bed bugs will result in immediate suspension of Tyson Library privileges for that patron and for any patrons in the same residence as the original patron. This suspension will be lifted after the patron presents proof that their residence has been successfully treated for and eradicated of bed bugs by a licensed and accredited pest control company.

Patron Protocol

Tyson Library patrons must stop borrowing materials from the library if they are experiencing a bed bug infestation in their residence.

In the event that a patron discovers a live or dead bed bug, bed bug eggs, bed bug nymphs, or feces or spotting associated with bed bugs in Tyson Library materials, the patron must immediately:

- If the materials are inside of library: Bring the materials to a staff member to inform them of the problem.
- If the materials are outside of the library and in possession of the patron: Place the materials into a sealable plastic bag. Return the sealed materials directly to a staff member and inform them of the problem. Patrons must not use the book drop or book cart return when bringing back materials suspected to contain evidence of bed bugs.
- Patrons are prohibited from self-treating library materials that are suspected to contain bed bugs.
- Patrons will be held responsible for any damages sustained to library materials during an attempted self-treatment. Successfully eradicating bed bugs requires professional-grade procedures and equipment contracted by the library.

Public Donations Protocol

Donors must inspect materials for evidence of live or dead bed bugs prior to donating them to Tyson Library.

Tyson Library reserves the right to discard materials with signs of past or present bed bug activity.

Approved: June 3, 2024