

Weedsport Free Library

Bed Bug Policy

Bed bugs are an increasing problem worldwide, although they do not pose a hazard to human health. While they are mostly found where people sleep – such as dorms, hotels, and apartments – they can occasionally appear in library materials.

The Library works to prevent, contain, and eliminate bed bugs and other pests in all library materials and on library property through ongoing monitoring, prompt reporting of all sightings, and the immediate destruction of any discovered bed bugs and bed bug eggs. In order to accomplish this, the Library has set forth this policy and related procedures.

The Library will:

- Take proactive measures to reduce the risk to staff and patrons;
- Consistently monitor library materials and facilities to provide a prompt and appropriate response;
- Contract with qualified pest control companies to work in the Library facilities; and
- Review related policies and procedures regularly to ensure they remain consistent with best practices.

In the event a patron discovers a bed bug or evidence of bed bugs in library material, they should do the following:

- If the material is still in the library, leave it where it is, inform a library staff member, and bring the staff member to the material.
- If the material is not in the library, the items should immediately be put into a sealable plastic bag (such as a Ziploc bag) and then the bag should be sealed and the seal reinforced with tape. Return the items directly to library staff and inform them of the issue; do not return the material to a book drop.
- Patrons should not attempt to treat library materials with known or suspected bed bugs themselves. The patron will be responsible for any damage to library materials resulting from self-treating.

If a patron discovers that their home or work has a bed bug problem, they should refrain from borrowing library materials until the problem has been dealt with. If they currently have library materials in the infested area, they should call the library to discuss what should be done with the material. The Library understands that bed bugs can be a sensitive issue and will work with the patron to find a resolution.

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