

An ounce of prevention...

M&M Environmental demonstrates the effectiveness of *ActiveGuard* Mattress Liners for senior living facilities against the threat of bed bug reinfestation.

Tim Wong, technical director of Manhattan-based M&M Environmental, has found there are two necessary ingredients to gain control over any bed bug situation: preparation and treatment. However, between the tendency to have cluttered living spaces and a variety of visitors, preparation is almost non-existent among the senior population.

“The environment of most senior housing is such that it can spread easily. There are constant home aid workers, family members, visiting nurses — and often there are multiple agencies involved, so it’s not a matter of just working with one agency on awareness and prevention,” he adds. “It gets very tricky.”

When Allergy Technologies reached out to see whether he’d be

interested in conducting a study of its *ActiveGuard* permethrin-impregnated mattress liners, Wong was immediately on board. He had an account with more than 1,000 units with a persistent bed bug problem (“It was like playing Whack-A-Mole sometimes,” he laments), and the idea of using the mattress liners as a defense for the bed bug-free units, not just a component of control in the infested units, was appealing.

Wong and his team selected 210 units for the study, and divided them into three groups of 70:

- **GROUP 1** had a history of bed bugs. They were previously treated with insecticides and/or heat, but were considered bed bug free. The beds in these units were fitted with *ActiveGuard* Mattress Liners.

- **GROUP 2** had no history of bed bugs. These beds also were fitted with *ActiveGuard* Mattress Liners.

- **GROUP 3** had no history of bed bugs, but did *not* receive *ActiveGuard* Mattress Liners. It functioned as the “control group.”

STUDY RESULTS

Previous studies had found that *ActiveGuard* Mattress Liners are not repellent to bed bugs; in fact, they are known to actively rest on

BED BUG BATTLE

COMPANY: M&M Environmental
STRUCTURE TYPE: High-rise senior living facilities

WAR STORY: Technical Director Tim Wong says regardless of whether a unit had a history of infestation, installing the liners has made a measurable decrease in the facility’s infestation rate.

CONTROL SOLUTION: *ActiveGuard* Mattress Liners by Allergy Technologies

WEBSITE: AllergyTechnologies.com

the fabric before succumbing to the effects of the permethrin. Other studies have found that use of the liners contributes to decreased bed bug feeding and egg production.

M&M’s study, however, concludes that *ActiveGuard* Mattress Liners, when installed on the beds in currently uninfested units, provided unilateral protection against the spread of bed bugs from neighboring units.

Wong, who even before this study has been traveling the country presenting to eldercare groups and associations about the particular bed bug challenges faced by senior housing, was pleased with the results.

“We’re making the installation of *ActiveGuard* mandatory for our senior clients now,” he says. “Because it’s a fitted cover, not an encasement, it’s much easier for seniors to put on their beds. Allergy Technologies also provides instructions in multiple languages, which is helpful for many of our senior multi-housing facilities.

“Now when I speak at conferences, I’m able to recommend a good, solid product that is able to help this population avoid having to deal with bed bugs,” Wong concludes.

