

For Immediate Release:

Bed Bugs Suck: 8 Simple Prevention Tips for Hoteliers

October 30, 2015 (Ambler, PA) – It may seem crass to say it. Bed bugs suck not only your guests, but your bottom line and your reputation, too. These insidious pests can hitchhike into one of your hotel rooms with anyone who walks through the door -- from guests to service staff, or even in deliveries.

A recent study conducted by the [University of Kentucky](#) revealed that the value of a guest room *can drop an average of \$30 per night* with even a single mention of bed bugs on social media and travel websites.

From motels and bed-and-breakfasts to lodges and the finest hotels, there are several steps hospitality professionals can take to prevent the problem from occurring in the first place.

[Allergy Technologies](#), a leader in bed bug prevention and control, offers the following suggestions for managers to consider when designing and outfitting rooms:

1. **Luggage Racks** – Take racks out of the closet and place them in a prominent spot in the room where they're openly available and easy to inspect. Guests dropping suitcases on beds offer the most likely introduction of bed bugs. No racks? Make sure there is a hard surface piece of furniture nearby, such as a low dresser. When in doubt, use the bathtub. Bed bug are not prone to situate on cold ceramic or tiled surfaces.
2. **Headboards** -- Up to 85 percent of bed bugs are found within a five-foot radius of the bed, with headboards being notorious hiding places. Instead of upholstery with tufting and other crevices for bed bugs to hide, choose metal, wood or wood composite designs with little to no textured areas. Simple is better. Pay attention to the back side of the headboard and how it's attached to the wall to reduce hot spots for bed bug activity.
3. **Dust Ruffles** that cascade to the floor, especially highly ruffled and pleated ones, are an easy entrance ramp. A better choice? Decorative fabric covers that fit snugly around the box spring.
4. **Box Spring Platforms** -- Typical railed box spring frames, full of nooks and crannies, are common hiding places for bed bugs. Instead, use metal spring platforms that have minimal crevices.
5. **Active Mattress Liners** -- Unlike an encasement that simply wraps around the bed and traps the bed bugs inside, an active liner *protects the guest*. As easy to install as a fitted sheet, [ActiveGuard® Mattress Liners](#) stop bed bugs from biting within 10 minutes of contact, and work to kill bed bugs continuously up to two years. It's the only effective and proven way to prevent an infestation, saving both your reputation and bottom line.
6. **Window Treatments** -- Draperies and, most specifically, valances are common hiding sites for bed bugs. Consider using window treatments with the least tufting and pleating. Alternatively, wooden or other non-upholstered valances further reduce the likelihood of infestation in these otherwise high-risk areas.

7. **Seating** -- Upholstered couches and chairs pose risks. If upholstered seating is chosen, those with fixed seating and backrests, as compared to loose pillow designs, are recommended.
8. **Pictures** hung with hardware that punctures the wall are common bed bug harbor sites. While it is probably not reasonable to eliminate pictures from hotel room walls, Allergy Technologies recommends not placing them on the wall on which the bed and headboard rests.

About Allergy Technologies

Allergy Technologies LLC is committed to the creation and manufacture of innovative, effective and consumer-friendly products addressing major issues in both pest control and healthcare. The managers and employees of Allergy Technologies are stewards of the community and environment, making meaningful contributions to impactful philanthropic causes. Consistent with the Philanprofit spirit of its founder, a portion of all Allergy Technologies profits are dedicated to improving the lives of others.

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