# HOW TO HIRE A PEST CONTROL OPERATOR FOR BED BUGS

**Call several companies.** Introduce yourself and explain your interest in safer, more effective bed bug control through Integrated Pest Management.

**It is important to shop around**—not all pest control companies are the same; make sure you spend the time to find the right company.

**Don't just go with the lowest bid**—make sure you hire a company that will really treat the problem. This may not mean the company that is the cheapest, but it will save you time, and even money, to treat it properly the first time.

## *When you call ask the following questions:*

**1) Do they offer an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) option?**

IPM should include the following services:

- Inspection
- Monitoring
- Guidance on policies and activities you should put in place to prevent bed bugs from becoming a problem
- Recommendations for preventing bed bug problems from spreading
- Treatment strategies that go beyond pesticide treatment such as heat treatments, steam cleaning, etc.
- The use of least-toxic pesticides approved for bed bugs

**2) Do they offer a building assessment?**

The assessment will help determine where and when you got the bed bugs to avoid future infestation.

**3) Do they provide a pre-treatment checklist?**

It is essential that certain steps be taken before treatment for it to be effective, such as reducing clutter, cleaning, and washing linens and other items. If they do not provide pre-treatment preparation instructions, look elsewhere.

**4) Do they perform a pre-treatment inspection?**

To treat for bed bugs, the technician must know where they are located. An initial inspection by a trained technician will identify areas to treat.

**5) Do they offer steam cleaning or other types of heat treatments?**

Applying heat is one of the best ways to kill bed bugs. Steam cleaning is a safe, environmentally friendly way to kill bed bugs and their eggs. Steaming correctly can make using pesticide sprays unnecessary.

**6) Do they recommend mattress covers?**

Encasing mattresses in a zippered cover after treatment can help prevent future infestation. A pest control company that focuses on IPM should recommend using a mattress cover.

**7) Do they only use pesticides recommended for bed bugs?**

Pesticides are designed to be used for specific pests and by a specific method. For example, some pesticides are illegal for use on mattresses. Ask for the names and labels of pesticides to insure proper use.

**8) Do they provide service reports of work performed and written recommendations of further actions to take to maintain a bed-bug-free facility?**

Service reports and IPM recommendations will help you prevent bed bug problems in the future.

**9) Do they provide references?**

A reputable bed bug treatment company will give you references of previously treated facilities. Get those numbers and make sure to call.

### Canine Scent Detection: Pros and Cons

Canine scent detectors are another tool for dealing with bed bugs. Dogs are trained to react to the scent of bed bugs and can be useful for low-level, hard-to-find infestations. It is best to use canine detection with a licensed pest control operator. Be sure to check references and request certification credentials and a demonstration.

Keep in mind:

- There are no state or federal licensing requirements for dogs, but in Illinois, trainers should have their structural pest control license.
- The quality of the dog depends on the quality of the training. Ask how the dog is trained and how often.
- Dogs should be able to identify live and dead bed bugs.

SAFER PEST CONTROL PROJECT

**Safer Pest Control Project is a not for profit organization dedicated to reducing the health risks and environmental impacts of pesticides and promoting safer alternatives in Illinois.**

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# CHICAGO-AREA PEST CONTROL COMPANIES OFFERING INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR BED BUG CONTROL*

**A-ALERT EXTERMINATING**
5860 N. Lincoln Ave
Chicago, IL 60659
(773) 348-3337
www.aalertexterminating.com

**A-PLUS PEST CONTROL**
4120 Oakton St.
Skokie, IL 60076
(847) 676-3477
www.apluspest.com

**ALLIED CLEANING SERVICES, INC.**
14150 S. Western Ave.
Posen, IL 60469
(708) 396-0200
www.alliedcleaning.net

**ANDERSON PEST CONTROL**
1100 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60607
1-866-969-BUGS
www.andersonpestsolutions.com

**ECONOMY PEST CONTROL**
2030 W 53rd Pl.
Chicago, IL 60609
(773) 434-7750

**GOLD SEAL**
(312) 240-0002
www.goldsealpest.com

**MARK'S PEST CONTROL**
1057 Grand Ave.
Chicago, IL 60622
(312) 733-6555

**MCCLOUD SERVICES**
Chicago: (877) 305-1951
Alsip: (708) 371-8791
Schaumberg: (847) 891-3900
contact@mccloudservices.com
www.mccloudservices.com

**NEVERNEST PEST CONTROL**
17 E. Monroe St.
Chicago, IL 60603
(773) 772-9172
www.nevernest.com

**ROSE PEST SOLUTIONS**
1809 W North Ave
Chicago, IL 60622
(773) 384-3000
www.rosepestcontrol.com

**SMITHEREEN**
1635 S. State St.
Chicago, IL 60610
(312) 922-5011
www.smithereen.com

* This factsheet is for informational purposes only. Listing does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation. The companies above have self-reported they use IPM-based strategies for bed bug control when asked by customers. IPM is a comprehensive approach to pest problems that includes preventative measures, occupant education and treatment. For more information see Safer Pest Control Project's Ten Steps to Pest Control factsheet. Always talk to several companies before contracting for pest control services. See our How to Hire an IPM Contractor fact sheet for more information. To find factsheets and additional resources, please visit us at www.spcpweb.org.