Pest Control Policy

University Housing is committed to an effective and efficient response to reports of pests in housing facilities. Our pest control measures include regular inspections and housekeeping controls and material treatments as needed. The materials and processes used to treat rooms and apartments are carefully selected to be safe and effective.

Student and Guest Responsibility:

- You are responsible for practicing good housekeeping in your rooms and in the residence halls to help deter insects and pests.
- You are expected to:
  - Store food properly in sealed containers.
  - Promptly clean dirty dishes/utensils.
  - Launder your clothing and bedding regularly to help reduce the chance of harboring pests.
  - Empty and inspect your backpack frequently.
  - Keep your room picked up and orderly.
  - Vacuum your room at least weekly.
  - Remove trash promptly (including pizza boxes).
  - Examine your bed and the area near your bed thoroughly every couple of weeks.
- Residents who disregard good housekeeping and/or promote pest infestation may be responsible for the cost of extermination.
- Your belongings must be free of pests, or you must be willing to work with University Housing staff to rid your belongings of pests.
- You may not bring into our residence facilities second-hand or donated furniture or carpeting that may contain pests.
- While traveling, you must take precautions to minimize the chance of bringing pests to campus.
- If you have possibly been exposed to pests or suspect pests in your residence, you must follow response protocol below for reporting the incident and correcting conditions. Early detection and management is very important. Do not treat your room with chemicals, sprays or any other type of product to control or kill pests. This will hinder the efforts of professional exterminators.

University Housing Responsibility:

- We are responsible for responding to complaints or concerns of unhealthy or unsafe conditions by students or guests, including those potentially associated with insect or other pest outbreaks.
- We are responsible for providing timely feedback to students.
• We will provide the resources and information to educate all students about pests and the expected response protocol.
• We will respond quickly to any student pest concern.

Response Protocol for Detection and Treatment of Pests

Ants, Roaches, Earwigs, Crickets, Bees, etc.:

• Residents are to remove all open food items, clean all debris and empty in-room trashcans.
• Food shall be placed in sealed secondary containers.
• Pesticide sprays should only be used as directed and only when appropriate.
• For severe conditions of insect infestation, a licensed pest control company will be dispatched.
• Students/guests who suspect severe conditions of insect infestation are expected to contact the front desk of their residence hall and provide their name, room number and phone number. The desk worker will immediately contact University Housing staff. If this occurs outside the working hours of the front desk, the student/guest should contact the Resident Assistant on duty at the number provided at the front desk.

Rodents:

• Rodents are attracted to locations where they can hibernate/nest and find food.
• Residents are to remove all open food items, clean all debris and empty in-room trashcans.
• Food shall be placed in sealed secondary containers.
• Students/guests who suspect rodents are expected to contact the front desk of their residence hall and provide their name, room number and phone number. The desk worker will immediately contact University Housing staff. If this occurs outside the working hours of the front desk, the student/guest should contact the Resident Assistant on duty at the number provided at the front desk.

Bed Bugs:

Over roughly the past decade, bed bugs have made a dramatic comeback in the U.S. Bed bugs are appearing increasingly in homes, apartments, hotels, health care facilities, dormitories and residence halls, shelters, schools and public transportation. The University Housing has established the following process for the detection and treatment of bed bugs:

• Students/guests who suspect the presence of bed bugs are expected to contact the front desk of their residence hall and provide their name, room number, and phone number. The desk worker will immediately contact University Housing staff. If this
occurs outside the working hours of the front desk, the student/guest should contact the Resident Assistant on duty at the number provided at the front desk.

- University Housing staff will contact the student/guest and request information to help determine if a bed bug inspection is warranted.
- If an inspection is warranted, university personnel from the University Housing and/or Facilities Management will visit the room and perform a visual inspection. These personnel may coordinate additional inspection with an approved exterminator.
- If there is evidence of bed bugs, university personnel will arrange for treatment of the affected space.
- University Housing staff will coordinate with the affected students/guests regarding the treatment process. It may be necessary to treat the entire room or some select items may be removed and treated separately.
- If the entire room needs treated, University Housing staff will help the students/guests prepare for the heat treatment process and will provide temporary accommodations, if necessary.
- University Housing staff will be in contact with the students/guests so they know when the treatment is completed.
- The University Housing and/or the University of South Dakota shall not be held responsible for any damage to personal belongings.
- Students/guests may be required to dispose of any personal items that cannot be treated.

Additional Resources:

- [South Dakota Department of Health: Bed Bugs Q&A](#)
- [Cornell University Bed Bug Fact Sheet](#)
- [Guidelines for Prevention and Management of Bed Bugs in Shelters and Group Living Facilities](#)
- [Hotel Room Inspection from the University of Maine](#)
- [HowDini.com: How to Find Bed Bugs](#)