

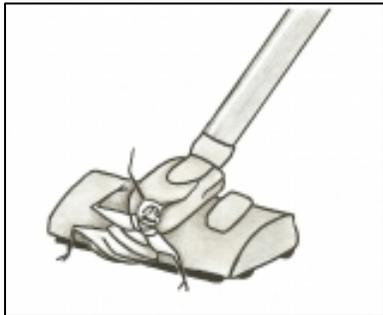


Focus on...

Pesticides Used for Bed Bugs Can Sicken Workers

With bed bug infestations on the rise, pesticide illness related to bed bug control is an increasing problem.

A [national study](#) reported illnesses among workers who applied pesticides to treat bed bugs and among hotel and maintenance workers who entered rooms after they were treated. Workers have reported headaches, dizziness, difficulty breathing, nausea, vomiting, and other symptoms.



In addition, pesticides sometimes don't work against bed bugs. Bed bugs resistant to pesticides have been reported in California and in other states.

The California Department of Public Health's [Occupational Pesticide Illness Prevention Program \(OPIPP\)](#) has published a new [pesticide hazard alert](#) about getting rid of bed bugs safely. The alert discusses how non-chemical bed bug treatments are effective and can reduce the need for pesticides. It also covers how to hire a pest control operator certified in [Integrated Pest Management \(IPM\)](#), a common-sense approach to controlling pests while eliminating or reducing the use of harmful pesticides.

Each year pesticides poison hundreds of workers. California physicians are required to [report cases of suspected pesticide poisoning](#) and all [suspected work-related injury or illness](#). OPIPP collects and examines these reports to learn more about occupational pesticide poisoning and preventing it.

Resources

[Pesticides used for bed bugs can make you sick](#) – OHB pesticide hazard alert

[Preventing worker illness from indoor pesticide exposure](#) – OHB webpage

[Bed bugs](#) – CDPH webpage

[OHB](#) improves California worker health and safety through prevention activities. We gather information on job hazards, test new approaches to prevent worker injury and illness, and help make changes at the workplace.

Email OHW@cdph.ca.gov with feedback about this update or change of address.