



125 W. Beech St, P.O. Box 380
Harrison, MI 48625

Telephone: (989) 539-6711

Fax: (989) 539-6301

Public Statement:

For several years, the threat of bedbug exposure has been a concern when checking into hotels. Unfortunately, this issue extends beyond hotels to other public spaces, including schools and libraries. Because bedbugs can hide in personal belongings like backpacks and clothing, they can be unknowingly transported into various locations.

A few years ago, HDL encountered our first bedbug issue when a returned library item was found to contain a single bedbug. We immediately called in a professional pest control company to inspect the library, and fortunately, the infestation was limited to that one bug, which was swiftly contained by our staff. Nonetheless, we took further precautionary measures, involving a professional exterminator to ensure there was no further risk.

Today, Wednesday, February 5, 2025, around 1:15pm several books were returned and found to have a significant number of active bedbugs. These books were returned through our indoor general material return, which led to further contamination of library materials. Upon discovery, library staff immediately separated the infested items and securely sealed them in an outdoor area. The library was closed, and a professional pest control company was contacted promptly. A comprehensive and aggressive treatment plan has been put in place for the building.

For the safety of our patrons and staff, HDL will remain closed until further notice while we work to eliminate any potential exposure and ensure the library is thoroughly treated. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation during this time. As we learn more about the ongoing situation at the library, and develop policies and procedures to improve prevention, we will share information and updates on our website <https://hdl.org>.

How to reduce your exposure to bedbugs?

Bedbugs don't specifically "prefer" libraries as their primary habitat, but they can infest libraries under certain circumstances. Bedbugs are more likely to thrive in warm, dark, and quiet spaces where they can hide easily, such as homes with beds, couches, or clothing. While libraries have always been vigilant about the potential for bedbug exposure, we actively inspect returned materials to help prevent the spread of any infestations. If you are concerned about library materials, we recommend keeping them sealed in a plastic bag and avoiding placing books near or on beds or bedding. For more information on how to protect yourself from bedbugs, please visit www.epa.gov/bedbugs for comprehensive resources and tips on prevention.

What if I find evidence that my library materials are affected by bed bugs?

Immediately seal all library materials in a zip-top plastic bag. You may return the materials to the library sealed in zip-top bags and indicate upon return that you found evidence of bed bugs. Items will be treated and then evaluated.

Sincerely,

Sheila Bissonnette, MLIS
Library Director

Nancy House, President
Greenwood Township

Mary Winters, Secretary
City of Harrison

Rick Foote, Treasurer
Hayes Township

Don Richards, Trustee
City of Harrison

Debra Hoyt, Trustee
Hayes Township

Diane Wood, Trustee
Greenwood Township