



Pest Control at London Public Library

LPL circulates roughly 3.9 million items a year, and sees close to 2.8 million visits to our spaces. We have had a few confirmed identifications of bed bugs, but overall they are extremely rare given the scale and size of our operations. We are working very proactively to ensure any activity is minimal and responded to immediately. We have had established Pest Control procedures and training in place for many years, for which we sought advice from the Middlesex London Health Unit.

It is important to note that a library is a poor environment for bugs. We have a regular cleaning schedule throughout our facilities, and the many hard surfaces and materials make our spaces an inhospitable place for bugs.

We have procedures and training for staff in place to ensure that the presence and impact of pests in Library facilities is minimized through a process of effective prevention, staff awareness, identification of pests (when they are reported or observed) and investigation and remediation practices.

We are taking precautionary measures which include replacing older furniture with harder plastic surfaces that will resist insects such as bed bugs.

Our staff and patrons are vigilant. If staff had reason to suspect a pest is present, the suspected item (such as a book or batch of books or furniture item) would be sealed up and removed from the premises.

If we were to positively identify a pest (such as bed bugs, head lice or silverfish) our actions would be dictated by or advised by the Middlesex London Health Unit or a certified pest control agent and may involve the isolated application of a pesticide or other appropriate actions.

Bed bugs are an unfortunate reality in many public places including housing, movie theatres, hotels, hospitals, nursing homes and public transportation and libraries are not immune. The Middlesex London Health Unit provides some very helpful information for the community about bed bugs on their website:

<https://www.healthunit.com/bedbugs>