

MODULE TWO

BED BUGS

THE CITY'S ROLE

RELEVANT CODES AND APPLICATION



**Environmental Health
City of Abilene**

reduce illness, injury,
or discomfort to
people

KEY TERMS & CONCEPTS

Bed bugs not shown to carry diseases, i.e.

Bed bugs are not considered vectors.

E.H. has 2 certified pesticide applicators in vector control



mosquitoes only



Bed bugs are considered pests = fire ants - wasps,
crickets - termites

Control provided by certified pest control professionals.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

The City's response is limited to:

Facilities providing **sleeping accommodations** to the **public**,

Specifically



**Hotels
&
Motels**

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LIMITATIONS & OPTIONS

Without a local ordinance authorizing routine inspections of hotels and motels Environmental Health can only respond to certain health and sanitation **complaints.**

Complaints investigated as a **public health nuisance.**



E. H. does not respond to:
private dwellings*
apartment complexes*

* Exception mosquitoes

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APPLICABLE CODES

Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 341, Minimum Standards of Sanitation

Subchapter B. Nuisances and General Sanitation

Sec. 341.011. Nuisance. Each of the following is a **public health nuisance:**

- (10) the presence of ectoparasites, including bed bugs, lice, and mites suspected to be disease carriers in a place which **sleeping accommodations** are offered to the **public**;

CODES (Continued)

Sec. 341.066. Tourist Courts, Hotels, Inns, and Rooming Houses

- (c) An owner or operator of a tourist court, hotel, inn, or rooming house **shall** keep the premises sanitary and shall provide every practical facility essential for that purpose.

- (i) A tourist court, hotel, inn, or rooming house that does not conform to this chapter is a **public health nuisance**.

CITY OF ABILENE ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 19: NUISANCES AND ILLEGAL DUMPING

Sec. 19-3. Definitions.

Nuisance: Any unlawful **act**, or **omission** to perform a duty, or any **condition** or **thing** permitted to exist, where such act, omission, condition or thing:



(a) Injures or endangers the **comfort, health, safety or welfare** of **others**;

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WHAT IS A NUISANCE ?

Sec. 19-15. Prohibited acts or conditions which constitute a **nuisance.**

(3) Any condition that provides harborage for rats, mice, snakes and other **vermin.**



Vermin = noxious, objectionable, or disgusting animals collectively, especially those of small size that appear commonly and are difficult to control, as flies, lice, bed bugs, cockroaches, mice, and rats.

— Dictionary.com

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WHAT HAS THE CITY DONE ABOUT BED BUGS?

Historically: Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSH) responded to hotel/motel complaints

Today: TDSH no longer responds in areas with a local health department or with code enforcement officials.



Our Reaction:

Environmental Health began responding to certain complaints on hotels/motels, particularly bed bugs, roaches and rodents.

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CURRENT PROCEDURES

1) Receive complaint about a specific room on a specific date at a specific hotel/motel.

- **Legal Constraint: We do not accept complaints on private residences, apartments, etc.**

2) Investigate the complaint & determine its accuracy.



3) If bed bugs are found in the **specific room:**

Adjacent rooms may be investigated, or instructions may be left for a **Certified Pesticide Applicator** to investigate

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PROCEDURES (Continued)

4) Notice of Violation (NOV) left with the hotel/motel to:

a. Contact a **Certified Pesticide Applicator** with experience in bed bug control (self-treatment not allowed)

b. Treat the room and examine and treat all necessary adjacent rooms;

c. Provide a copy of invoice showing:

Rooms treated &

Treatment processes/chemicals used

d. Submit statement that room(s) is(are) cleared for habitation.



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