

# ECOWISE

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## Unwelcome Tenants: HUD Provides Updated Bedbug Guidance



Last month HUD issued [Notice PIH 2012-17](#) to address the growing concern of bedbug outbreaks in public housing. The notice includes recommended principles for an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan for bedbugs.

Education is the most effective form of prevention. Inform residents about bed bugs, the steps they can take to prevent outbreaks and what to do if they spot the insects. Since bed bugs are typically brought into developments via clothing, luggage, etc. it is important that residents are able to clearly identify bedbugs look like and the signs of an infestation. Resident involvement can also include holding resident workshops that teach the residents how to create an unfriendly environment for pests and bedbugs, a discussion of bedbug prevention during new resident orientation, and using educational signs and handouts to explain the importance of identifying bedbug outbreaks and notifying the PHA.

PHA staff education is also very important in bedbug prevention and elimination. PHAs should provide training in identifying bedbugs in addition to continued education of the prevention and elimination procedures contain within the PHA's IPM plan. Inspecting living areas on a regular basis for signs of bed bugs can also help reduce the severity of an outbreak.

In the event of an outbreak the property managers or staff should take prompt action to ensure the area is cleaned properly. Infestations should be addressed in accordance with the agency's IPM plan. In addition to chemical treatments encasement, interception devices, vacuuming, steaming, freezing and building heat treatments are acceptable methods of resolution. Unfortunately outbreaks are rarely controlled in a single treatment. The length, method and extent of the treatment greatly depends on the severity and complexity of the outbreak, as well as the level of resident cooperation. Continued follow up with the tenant should also be done to eliminate reoccurrences. Records of infestations should also be kept to control future or additional break outs and to help advise REAC Inspectors during an inspection.

- National Pest Management Association Bedbug Hub:  
<http://pestworld.org/pest-world-blog/the-bed-bug-hub-one-stop-shop-for-bed-buginformation>
- Public Housing Environmental Conservation Clearinghouse (PHECC)  
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/phecc/pestmang.cfm>

Further details on preventative and containment recommendations are available in Notice PIH 2012-17 which can be viewed at: [http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/public\\_indian\\_housing/publications/notices](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing/publications/notices).

## Upcoming Conferences

**The Indoor Environmental Health & Technologies Conference**  
May 1-4, 2012  
New Orleans, LA  
<http://I.usa.gov/rlwKma>

**HUD Energy Conference**  
May 7-9, 2012  
Nashville, TN  
<http://I.usa.gov/Hlm0gg>

## Housing Authority of the City of El Paso is Raising the Roof

El Paso, Texas is no stranger to hot summer days, typically spending weeks in triple digit temperatures. To bear the heat and lower energy costs, the Housing Authority of the City of El Paso (HACEP) looked to their roofs. The housing agency used 7.3 million in funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to invest in a Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Roofing System.

In 2009, several of the Housing Authority's communities in the El Paso area had a growing concern as many had significantly aging roofs that needed considerable repair and/or replacement. ARRA funds allowed the housing agency to move the roofing project to the top of its list; construction began in 13 communities later that year.

HACEP was able to work with a Texas based roofing company to replace the nearly 600,000 square feet of roof. HACEP chose a PVC Roofing System for this project, the white PVC membrane is applied directly to the roof and in many cases can be applied over the top of the existing roofing material eliminating the cost for a tear off. The product was selected because of its high level of reflectivity against the absorption of the heat from the sun. This reflectivity aids in keeping the internal temperature of the building cooler. The cooler temperatures reduce the demand on other cooling sources such as fans and air conditioners and the less cooling means more energy savings for the Housing Authority.

The reflectivity of the product was not the only benefit to its use; PVC is also long lasting, virtually maintenance free, resistant to water, fire, chemicals, grease and punctures. The project also provides an increase in the value of the assets for the Housing Authority. Additionally, the project can qualify for LEED® certification by the U.S. Green Building Council.

Approximately 4000 units were affected by the project and the Housing Authority took measures to limit the disruptions to tenants during the construction. Shane Griffith, Public Information and Government Relations Officer for HACEP states, "the response from the tenants to the completed project has been positive; both the tenants and the Housing Authority have seen a significant energy cost savings."

## Resident's Corner | Green Crafts for Kids



April 22, 2012 is Earth Day, an event celebrated by over 1 billion people around the world each year. To help get children involved here are some projects they can do at home to contribute to the cause.

### Create a Mosaic:

#### **Materials List:**

- Magazine(s)
- Scissors
- Blank sheet of paper
- Pencil
- Glue

1. Gather magazines from around the house or from neighbors and friends.
2. Have your child cut out different colors from the pages.
3. Arrange the colored pieces by color, then have them draw out a picture.
4. Cut each color into smaller pieces and glue onto to the picture to fill it in.
5. Once dry this recycled mosaic can be displayed. Those extra magazines can be placed in your recycle bin or taken to a recycling facility in your area.

### Paper beads:

#### **Materials List:**

- Magazine(s)
- Glass or plastic bowl
- Water
- Blender
- Needle or Nail
- String or Yarn
- Tempera Paint

1. No need to recycle those old magazines just yet. Tear several pages into small pieces, about 1 inch or smaller.
2. Place the pieces in a bowl of warm water for about an hour.
3. With adult supervision, pour the paper and water into a blender and blend on high until it is a thick pulp.
4. Form the paper in to beads, the size and shape is up to the crafter.
5. Once formed use a needle or nail to poke a hole in the middle and allow to dry for 24 – 48 hours.
6. Once dry they can be painted, sealed and used to make bracelets or necklaces.

### Contact Us:

#### **Public and Indian Housing Information Resource Center (PIH IRC)**

2614 Chapel Lake Drive  
Gambrills, MD 21054

**Toll free number:** 1-800-955-2232

**Fax number:** 1-443-302-2084

**E-mail:** [pihirc@firstpic.org](mailto:pihirc@firstpic.org) (Put "EcoWise" in subject line)

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