

Eckhart Public Library Pest Policy

Approved by the Eckhart Public Library Board of Trustees 9/11/2024

Eckhart Public Library proactively works to prevent, contain, and eliminate bed bugs and other public health pests in library materials and on the library premises.

The library's goals are to:

- Reduce the risk of public health pests to patrons and staff.
- Monitor detection and response levels on an ongoing basis.
- Contract licensed, accredited, and reputable pest detection and control companies.

Staff Protocol:

Library staff will consistently inspect all incoming materials for evidence of insects including live or dead bugs, eggs, nymphs, and feces or spotting associated with bug infestations. Materials returned to Eckhart Public Library with evidence of live or dead bugs will be treated or discarded at the discretion of the library. All potentially contaminated items will be treated prior to returning to circulation. Returned materials belonging to other libraries will be treated according to [Evergreen Indiana Pest Procedures](#).

If a patron returns materials with evidence of bed bugs or other pests, library staff will directly and confidentially notify the patron for their awareness. Patron accounts may accrue charges for damage or replacement if the item can no longer be circulated. The second time a patron returns materials with evidence of bug infestation, that patron and any patrons in the same residence as the original patron may not borrow library materials and may be temporarily suspended from using the library facility until they produce documentation from a certified pest control company that their home has been treated and cleared of the infestation. During this time, patrons may continue to make use of all available online, digital resources.

Patron Protocol:

Library patrons who find evidence of insects in library materials should place materials in a sealable plastic bag, add tape to cover the sealed opening, and return the materials directly to a staff member, informing the staff member of the problem. Patrons should not attempt to self-treat materials.

Public Donations Protocol:

Donors must inspect materials for evidence of live or dead insects including bed bugs prior to donating them to Eckhart Public Library. If evidence is present or an infestation is known, the donor must not donate the materials to The Friends of the Eckhart Public Library.