

STATEMENT RE: CDC REPORT ON ILLNESS RELATED TO BED BUG INSECTICIDES

A new CDC report released Thursday, September 22, 2011, has garnered some public concern over illness associated with the improper use of insecticides used to kill bed bugs. While the report raises awareness of the importance of professional insecticide application, as opposed to non-licensed application, it acknowledges that the number of cases reported was small and emphasizes that this is not a major public health concern.

It is important to understand both the benefits, and risks, associated with the use of registered insecticides as a solution to eliminating bed bug infestations. As reflected in the CDC report, non-licensed application, or misuse of an insecticide product, can result in illness. Insecticides used to treat bed bugs should only be applied by licensed professionals, who have undergone the necessary training, and have followed the product label. Additionally, a reputable pest service provider will caution housekeeping or other staff working near a bed bug infestation not to enter a recently treated room until the product is completely dry.

Bed bugs are a very challenging pest to eliminate, and while there are non-chemical ways to treat an infestation, elimination of *all life stages* requires a combination of chemical and non-chemical solutions. When applied by a trained, licensed professional insecticides are a proven, effective way to stop bed bugs from spreading.

Ecolab's Bed Bug Protocol

Ecolab's service specialists are state certified professionals, licensed for product application. Ecolab service specialists receive training on the proper use of chemical and non-chemical solutions for bed bugs. Additionally, Ecolab educates customers on what to do if they suspect a bed bug infestation in their facility.

This includes:

- ▲ Quarantining suspected rooms and contacting Ecolab
- ▲ Thorough inspection of the suspected room and adjacent rooms by Ecolab
- ▲ If infestation is confirmed, Ecolab instructs customers on the proper handling of soft goods
- ▲ Effective treatment of infested room(s) by Ecolab's certified professionals
- ▲ Sealing off treated rooms until Ecolab clears for re-opening
- ▲ Proper post-treatment cleaning instructions

Ecolab's proprietary protocol and partnership with the customer helps limit insecticide exposure to staff and guests, while effectively eliminating all stages of bed bugs. For more information on what you can do to help protect your business from bed bugs, visit our online toolkit at www.bedbugtoolkit.com.