

# Seymour Public Library District

**Policy Title:** Pest Management  
**Policy Category:** Public Space and Safety

**Policy Number** 708

**Effective Date:** 12/28/2021

Pests such as bedbugs have made a resurgence since the early 2000s after disappearing in the 1950s due to the use of DDT. While their increase is most noticed in hotels, apartments, and dormitories--places where people sleep--they can make an appearance in library materials, too. It is important to note that an introduction of a pest in library materials does not equal an infestation. Seymour Public Library District (SPLD) has established proactive measures to prevent an infestation of pests, and created a series of protocols for identifying, quarantining, inspecting, and treating if pests are introduced.

SPLD staff will:

- Continuously monitor library materials to provide a prompt and appropriate response;
  - Take proactive measures to reduce the risk to staff and customers;
  - Contract with qualified pest control to work in our building;
  - Review its procedures and protocols regularly to guarantee they remain current and consistent with best practices; and
  - Keep informed of best practices for pest prevention and response.
1. If returned materials contains pests or evidence of pests, and the evidence is unequivocally connected to a specific borrower:
    - a. The patron will be promptly notified of the condition of the items.
    - b. Patron accounts within this household will not be allowed to borrow library materials until the problem is resolved
    - c. All borrowed items must be returned to the circulation desk in a properly secured sealed bag
  2. The patron is not allowed in the building (other than to return materials) until the matter is resolved.
  3. To be allowed in the building and to borrow materials, the patron must provide a paid and dated receipt for the pest extermination and/or inspection with clean results for their address. The address on the receipt must match the patron's address in the library's records.
  4. At the Library's discretion, materials will be either treated and returned to the circulating collection or discarded. If the item is discarded, the patron will be charged for the cost of replacing the item, as well as a nominal processing fee.

## Revision History

Changes	Approved by	Date
Adopted	Board of Trustees	12/28/2021