



First monitor for bedbugs arrives

The industry has been calling-out for an effective bedbug monitor. Congratulations to bedbug specialists, Bed-Bugs Ltd for producing the first, but unlikely to be the last, bedbug monitor.

The new monitor is described as a 'passive' monitor designed to be an early warning of the first signs of an infestation. As with all monitors it does not offer any form of control. Once activity is spotted operators should switch to an 'active' monitor and treatment – but details about this type are yet to be announced.

The monitor is roughly the size of a thin packet of cigarettes. Made of moulded plastic it consists of a seven layer sandwich. On top is a label to record the monitoring routine. This is stuck to the top layer of the plastic monitor, within which is the filler consisting of corrugated pulp-based tunnels – ideal hideaways for bedbugs.

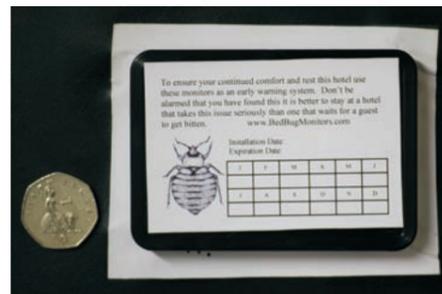
Under this is the bottom layer of the box, surrounded by a white detection skirt

designed to aid identification. Finally there is the anchorage plate and adhesive pad.

Whilst the monitor provides an ideal harbourage for these pests, the unit must be installed in specific locations on a bed. For a divan bed the middle of the head-end of the base divan is recommended, or on slatted beds underneath a slat in the middle of the head-end of the base.

David Cain, managing director of Bed-Bugs Ltd, has spent considerable time and resource developing the product. He explained: "Its future use is one of partnership – a partnership between the client and the pest controller. A real example of an integrated pest management approach."

Another partnership has also been struck –



The first bedbug monitor has arrived

as David has established a manufacturing and distribution agreement covering 104 countries with EFK manufacturer, Brandenburg. A company you may not have initially thought of as a player in this market, but from this you do not have to be a rocket scientist to work-out who is developing the 'active' monitor.

Trade distribution arrangements for the UK have still to be finalised, however restricted supplies are available now direct from Bed-Bugs Ltd, with large-scale availability before the summer.

The products will be launched on www.bedbugmonitors.com which aims to provide information on a range of different bedbug solutions.

www.bedbugmonitors.com



Beating bedbugs

London group pools resources

The resurgence of bedbugs is challenging pest controllers in all walks of life. The Greater London Pest Liaison Group's (GLPLG) new suite of leaflets and control guidelines is helping them tackle the problem.



Members of the GLPLG bedbug working group: left to right: Ray Page from the London Borough (LB) of Newham; Dean Powell, LB of Bromley; Clive Boase of the Pest Management Consultancy; Andrew Hood, LB of Westminster; Tony Bull, LB of Hounslow and Tim Stevens, LB of Tower Hamlets.



The GLPLG has been working on a series of leaflets for residents, landlords and healthcare professionals to equip them with the information they need to recognise the problem and to provide practical advice on preparing for bedbug treatments. They have also pooled resources to produce a technical 'inspect and treat' manual for their staff. This information pack, which is due to be published in April, is the result of several months of hard work.

Tony Bull, principal animal control officer for the London Borough of Hounslow, explains, "In common with many cities in the UK, GLPLG members have experienced huge increases in the demand for bedbug control work over the past few years. The Group found that there were differing standards and specifications being applied across London and decided to form a working group to share experiences and put together a comprehensive set of procedures and information notes for use by members. In doing this we were delighted to be able work with Clive Boase of the Pest Management Consultancy, who is recognised as a leader in this area. We hope that the model documents will now form the basis for a strong response to the bedbug problem across London and, perhaps, elsewhere."

What is the GLPLG?

Pest controllers from many Local Authorities around the country come together under the banner of Pest Liaison Groups – as revealed in Issue 1 of *Pest*, page 14. There are more than 20 groups nationally. It will come as no surprise to learn that the Greater London Pest Liaison Group, (GLPLG) is one of the biggest. It looks after an area of over 620 square miles with more than seven million residents – nearly 15% of the UK population.

Within the Greater London area – basically the area encompassed by the boundary of the M25 – there are 33 Boroughs, two-thirds of which are GLPLG members. Membership is entirely voluntary, but a small fee is charged to cover running expenses, two seminars per year and the services of their secretary, consultant Adrian Meyer. In addition to his secretarial role, Adrian also offers the Group technical advice as and when required. From time to time, the Group also undertakes small research projects when it feels these would benefit members, for example resistance testing of rodenticides.

The GLPLG history goes back over 20 years, when it was initially run by MAFF and associated with the London Pest Unit. After the closure of the Unit, there was involvement with the Central Science Laboratory in Slough until it moved north to York. More recently Adrian Meyer has taken on the task as secretary and the Group is now thriving.

In the autumn of 2008 *Pest* editor, Frances McKim, attended one of the Group's seminars to find-out what it was all about. "It was certainly a lively Group," comments Frances, "and their objective of maintaining high standards of pest control and to disseminate sound technical information was very clear."

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