

Peru Public Library Pest Control Preventions and Response Policy

Peru Public Library takes a proactive approach to maintaining the health and cleanliness of our staff, materials, and facilities. The library also takes a proactive approach to protecting our patrons, and the library's investment in staff, materials, and facilities from unwanted pests. This policy outlines our prevention and response procedures.

Pests that may present human health or safety hazards to staff and patrons include, but are not limited to, roaches, bed bugs, fleas, lice, ants, silverfish, some types of beetles, and rodents. These pests may cause damage to library materials, equipment, and property, and can result in pest introduction or infestation to the library. Evidence of pest problems or infestation include live or dead pests, eggs, nymphs, feces, and spotting associated with pests.

The library will ensure there is ongoing monitoring to ensure prompt and appropriate response. Proactive measures are taken by staff, qualified pest control companies are contracted to work in our facility, procedures and protocols are reviewed regularly to remain current and consistent with best practices. Yearly staff education on best practices and responses to keep staff actively engaged in reducing the risk of infestation.

Staff Protocol – Library Facilities

Staff will routinely inspect all areas of the library including furniture, stacks, and carpeted areas for signs of infestation. Any signs of suspected infestation detected by staff or reported by library patrons will be promptly investigated. Any localized areas identified during ongoing monitoring will be treated individually; methods of treatment will be determined based on size and nature of the affected area.

Staff Protocol – Library Materials

Staff will also routinely inspect all incoming materials, including those returned at the circulation desks, in the book drops, and through interlibrary loan delivery for any signs of pests.

Items identified by library staff will be promptly sealed in a Ziploc style bag with a white sheet of paper, with the opening taped shut. The item will be monitored and treated according to best practices. Items that are significantly infested or damaged will be destroyed.

Patron Protocol

If a patron is experiencing a pest infestation of their residence or personal property, they are asked to cease their borrowing and in-building visits until the infestation is eradicated.

Return of materials with live or dead pests will result in immediate suspension of all library privileges, including in-building visits, for that patron and for any patrons in the same residence. Returned items with newly detected infestation will be treated as damaged items.

If a patron uses library facilities with evidence of possession of pests or with clothing that is stained with urine or feces, will also result in suspension of all outlined library privileges.

Suspension of all outlined library privileges will be lifted after proof of eradication of the residence by a licensed and accredited pest control company is provided.

If a patron finds a pest in library materials, the patron is asked to immediately place the library material(s) in a plastic Ziploc bag with a white sheet of paper and seal it, securing the seal by taping the top shut to ensure closure. If materials require sealing, patrons are asked to notify library staff of the problem and return the item at the circulation desk, not in the book drop.