

TEGAM Temperature Monitor Helps Eradicate Bed Bugs.

Bed bugs, scientific name: *Cimex lectularius*, have quickly become a very important pest of the 21st century, as they have already invaded numerous urban areas including hotels, offices and residences. The bed bugs (Figure 1) were almost removed in the 70s from North America as a result of mass treatments with older types of insecticides (DDT, Chlordane, Lindane). Recently though, bed bugs have found ample opportunity to increase in number and spread through society due to the ban on these pesticides and their immunity to the newer available pesticides. Their success is a result of: increased travel of people; improved treatment methods that specifically target other insect pests; and the lack of public awareness. (Kells, S.A. *Control Of Bed Bugs In Residences*. University of Minnesota (2006))



Figure 1 – Bed Bugs

Solution:

Some pest control methods avoid the use of dangerous chemicals by elevating the interior temperature of a building or room above the point where certain insects can live. Increasing the room temperature up to 120-130 °F is found to be effective in killing bed bugs. Care should be taken at higher temperatures, as damage to certain items may occur.

This requires monitoring multiple points in rooms or multiple rooms in the structure to verify that a sufficient temperature is achieved and sustained long enough to kill all of the bed bugs. The use of a thermometer and switch box combination saves many steps and trips around the work site.

The TEGAM 819A Series of Thermocouple Thermometer combined with an 8052 Thermocouple Switch Box and 8752 Probe (standard length is 3 ft.), shown in Figure 2, is the fastest and easiest way to measure up to 6 thermocouples. The Thermometer and the Switch Box externally monitor the temperatures inside the room using extended probe lengths up to 100 ft. (8752-100 for a 100 ft. length) or more without losing accuracy.

The 819A is a very versatile tool in the crowded world of handheld thermocouple thermometers. It has competitive features such as a high accuracy (± 1 °F), simple one button function selection and thermocouple fault monitoring. It also has a single piece keyboard that not only resists water but readily promotes cleaning from dirt or food particles. The combination costs less than any other solution, is easy to use, and more accurate.



Figure 2 – TEGAM Temperature Monitoring System (819A + 8052 + 8752)

B. J. Wolfe Enterprises and TEGAM Inc. have been working together for over 20 years to supply temperature monitoring equipment for the termite/bedbug/mold service industries. B. J. Wolfe Enterprises (800-554-1224, www.bjwe.com) worked directly with two entomology professors from UCLA who founded this system. B. J. Wolfe also stocks the thermocouples (temperature sensors) used with the TEGAM thermometer and switchbox.