



*Your Friend in The Pest Control Business*

### **Bed Bug Preparation Instructions**

#### **Things You'll Need:**

*Vacuum, Laundry Detergent, Washing Machine, Dryer, Garbage bags and sealed storage bags/bins duct tape and Patience!*

1. Prior to extermination, remove all bedding from mattresses; gather all linens, and all clothing, etc. from living space. This includes any textile materials that are machine washable – pillows, mattress covers, school bags, anything – and all items that must be dry-cleaned. Even fabric that is in storage should be collected. Wash bedding and all clothing/fabrics in HOT water. And dry in the dryer on hottest setting. Follow garment instructions you want to use heat to kill bed bugs in garments.
2. After washing, place items in clean, bed bug free storage bins or garbage bags. Seal to prevent bugs from entering and hiding in the clean fabrics. Keep access only to what you will need for a week. All other clothing will remain in storage until your home is determined pest free.
3. Empty all other non-washable items from closets in rooms where bugs have been found, or closets in which any fabrics, linens, towels, etc. have been stored. The exterminator will need access into these spaces. Vacuum all these items and store in bins or bags sealed to prevent bugs from gaining access.
4. Unplug electronic devices in rooms being exterminated. This will make the area more accessible to the exterminator. Remove all electrical outlet and light switch plates if possible. Remove wall mounted lights if applicable. The exterminator will need access into these spaces and will remove them if you don't.
5. Vacuum floors, carpets, nooks, and crannies, rugs, (if not machine washable), couch and cushions, etc. Vacuum a small amount of baby/talcum powder into the vacuum to prevent any insects from escaping. Place vacuum bag into garbage, double bagged and tied in a garbage bag and discard immediately.
6. Move objects away from perimeter of rooms. For example, if your sofa, dresser or bed is positioned against a wall, put it away from the wall. The exterminator will need access to the perimeter of the rooms where bugs have been found (bedrooms, living room, den/study). Vacuum along the perimeter of the room if you were unable to before, the exterminator will need access to these spaces.
7. Empty wooden bookshelves, desks, dressers, etc., and place items in storage bins, work in the room where bed bugs were found. Bed bugs can and will seek refuge between the boards of wooden furniture. This may include coffee tables, television stands, bed frames, photo frames, and box springs. The exterminator will need access into these spaces. Art will need to be removed from the wall.

8. Remove or at least cover all fish/reptile tanks. Turn off air to animal tanks. Remove any pet food that is out in the open. Be prepared to remove any animals – cats, dogs, birds, for several hours if complete residence treatment is proposed. You will need to air out the space prior to returning pets to the treated areas.
9. Make sure to leave contact number where the exterminator can reach you should he have a question while treating your home.
10. Wait for all mattresses, sofas, etc. to dry before sitting or laying on them. The treatment used to exterminate the premises will irritate your skin if still wet.

**Note:** Please remember to lock up valuables and remove all breakable from all treatable areas the products used may affect them.

*The greater the preparation, the more effective the treatment will be. Little to no preparation will result in poor control results. The effectiveness of the treatment will be apparent in the first few days, with longer-term control taking several weeks or more (depending on pre-treatment preparations made and the level of the infestation).*

Inform Pest Control Operator of any health issues, such as: pregnancy, asthma, reduced lung capacity, etc. It is recommended that small children vacate the premises for a full 24 hours. Do not touch treated areas until completely dry.

Do not throw anything away unless completely sealed in plastic bags. Any upholstered items, couches, or chairs that are infested may need to be thrown out. Let the professional exterminator determine what to save. If throwing furniture out, spray paint to discourage someone from bringing it back into the building. Wrap completely in plastic prior to moving the item out of your home.

Before extermination, seal your mattress, box spring, and pillows in Protect-A-Bed Bug proof encasements; they can be purchased at Menards builders supply or Bed Bath & Beyond Huber Heights location and Dayton Mall.

Be prepared for follow-up exterminations. Bed bugs are persistent and they don't care how much time and money you spend trying to get rid of them. Two visits are the minimum required, again proper prep will allow for total elimination.

Many bed bug infestations are the result of travel – people pick up bugs in hotel and motel rooms and transport them home in their luggage or on their person from waiting areas. Remember bed bugs are located where people rest or work. Visually inspect mattresses before sleeping on them and your luggage before setting in at home after a trip. Bed bugs are easier to avoid than get rid of!

Suffering a bedbug infestation does not mean you keep an untidy home or that you live in unfit conditions. They are extremely common and indiscriminate – presence of bed bugs does not reflect your personal hygiene habits or socioeconomic status.

Be sure to follow the exterminator's instructions. You can not be too thorough. Yes it is annoying and time consuming to prepare for, but it is the best to do it right the first time and avoid repeating the process should the extermination treatment appear to fail because the space were not prepared or you brought live bugs back in with your clothing or bags from the cleaners.