**PureGuard Pest Control**

423-949-5400

www.pureguardpestcontrol.com

Bed Bug Treatment Preparation Checklist

Proper preparation is a mandatory requirement for control to be effective. A service technician will outline this in detail and provide detailed instructions on what to do. This is generally done by the resident, although in some cases we offer preparation for an additional charge. Preparation involves providing access for pest control treatment as well as taking measures to ensure that bed bugs are destroyed or contained. If a home is not properly prepared, successful elimination is practically impossible. Although preparation may be difficult for some people (for example, seniors or handicapped individuals), it is essential for effective treatment, and thus in such cases family members, friends or social or charitable agencies may be available to provide assistance.

# Packing

All furniture and appliances in the dwelling usually need to be pulled away from the baseboards, and it is commonly asked that all furniture containing potential hiding crevices, such as bookshelves and desks, be emptied and left open for the exterminator to treat. Items in tightly sealed containers are usually safe from bedbug infestation and need not be emptied. We may declare an item untreatable upon inspection, especially items of wood or paper and electronics.

# Laundry

Everything that can be laundered *should* be laundered, and laundered in advance of the treatment, then placed in plastic bags to ensure they remain free of bed bugs. This would include clothing, bedding, stuffed animals, drapes and so on.

The items should be securely tied within plastic bags, and then emptied directly into the machines. The bags should then immediately be disposed of. It is **heat**, not water, that kills any bed bugs residing within the laundered items. Therefore, items should be washed in **hot** water, regardless of normal washing directions, and should be dried with medium heat (preferably high heat) for 40 minutes or more. (For those who have the ability to measure the temperature of the water in their washing machine, or of the hot air in their dryer, the target heat range is 120°F (49°C).)

NOTE:PureGuard Pest Control is not responsible for any damage caused to any laundry.

If a laundering session such as described is financially prohibitive, some have posited that the items need only be run through the dryer, not the washing machine. However, the extensive water and spinning action associated with washing machines may assist in dislodging bedbugs from where they are residing within clothing during laundering. This remains only "optional," as the heat of the cycle of drying will effectively kill all stages—eggs, immature stage (nymphs), and adults.

For items that require dry cleaning, the dry cleaners should be informed that the items in question are potentially infested, and the items should be bagged. Cleaners may still refuse to accept them.

# Vacuuming

The mechanical removal of bedbugs by vacuuming is a most important part of preparing for control. Vacuuming alone will not solve the problem, but it will substantially reduce bedbug numbers and thus help reduce the population as part of preparing for treatment. A crevice attachment should be used on the seams of mattresses, on box springs, on bed legs, within furniture interiors, behind pictures, on curtains, and anywhere there is a possibility of the insects hiding (e.g. inside dresser drawers, dresser cases, under chairs, etc.). Carpets should also be vacuumed throughout the home, preferably with a powerhead. Baseboards should also be vacuumed using the crevice tool—not swept—prior to the exterminator's arrival. Vacuum bags should then immediately be removed and placed in doubled plastic bags and placed into strong plastic bag for disposal.

# Managing Bedding

There are differing opinions as to whether it is necessary to dispose of mattress, box springs, futons, pillows, and other bedding. There is of course often a heavy cost involved in the complete replacement of such bedding. Getting rid of infested bedding alone does not solve the problem. The decision to replace bedding or not depends on the condition of, and often related level of, infestation within the items, the comfort level of the owner, whether the owner can afford replacement, and aesthetics. A reasonable rule of thumb is that new bedding does not need to be replaced, but if bedding is older and replacement may have been planned in any case, then of course, replacing it AFTER control is a welcome clean start. Infestation must be handled first and then if new bedding is desired, the old bedding can be disposed of.

Spread of infestation in apartment buildings is increased by tenants deciding to throw away old bedding. An infested mattress or box spring dragged in a hallway to an elevator will cause bedbugs to fall off or even run off the item, and these may then find their way into other units. As noted here, the use of protective encasements to protect bedding after treatment or to enclose bedbugs when the items are being thrown away is important in preventing spread of infestation. It is also suggested to slash or mark up discarded infested items so that others do not take them back into the building.

Placing bedding material inside vinyl, polyvinyl or polyethylene encasement is a good idea. Bedbugs like to hide near the victim and are commonly found on seams of mattresses, or within the structure of box springs. The mattress and box spring encasements serve to reduce this likelihood and in the case of box springs, it permanently seals any remaining insects inside the encasement. An encasement is a good idea either until the infestation has been totally eliminated or, in the case of good quality encasements, useful as a permanent protection for the mattress. It also will enable easier control if infestation recurs.

Electronic items cannot be sprayed, or damage to the electronic components is likely. Speak to your technician about the possibility of placing all electronic items into a sealed container for fumigation with an appropriate fumigant.

Bedbug infestations are not successfully handled by one treatment alone. PureGuard Pest Control will schedule 3 treatments and or inspections. Please keep your management office updated as to your activity.



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