



## EXTERMINATING CO., INC.

We recommend the use of these guidelines for the treatment of bed bugs in your residence.

Before the treatment begins, all occupants, including pets, must leave the unit, and not enter for a minimum of 4 hours after the technician arrives. Treatment cannot begin while the residents are at home, even in other rooms.

### **BEFORE TREATMENT:**

Your cooperation is most critical in resolving your bed bug problem. Not following these recommendations will result in prolonged infestation and aggravation. Please be mindful of our technician's time.

- All clutter should be removed from the unit.
- Remove all clothing from dressers and place in clean plastic bags or plastic totes.
- Bookshelves, nightstands or other furniture in the immediate area must be emptied so that the technician can spray the undersides of the furniture.
- Place all items in tightly sealed garbage bags and move them from the room to be treated.
- Vacuum the mattress thoroughly including the crevices, tags, handles and buttons.
- Vacuum bed frames, baseboards and objects/flooring close to bed.
- Vacuum inside and under dressers, nightstands and other furniture, and closets.
- Discard the vacuum bag (placed in tightly sealed garbage bag before disposal).
- Lack of compliance will result in Rescheduling your treatment to another day, and fees can be added. Notify office if you will not be ready to receive treatment.

### **LAUNDERING**

All clothing items should be placed in garbage bags, sealed and emptied directly into the washing machine. When the laundering cycles are complete, the clean laundry should be placed in new clear garbage bags and sealed during the treatment process. You may also want to leave seasonal clothing in bags until the problem is completely resolved. The garbage bags used for transporting clothing articles to the laundry room should be discarded outside the premise as they may contain bed bugs. It is important to launder items using hot water as cold water will not kill bed bugs or their eggs. All clean clothes should be put in the dryer on high for a minimum of 20 minutes. Loads should not be packed full, but have room for heat to reach up to 140° F. Some clothing may require dry cleaning, per manufactures directions. Remember to give same attention to curtains, rugs, mats and pet bedding, etc.

### **BEDS**

All bedding must be removed before the technician arrives. Soiled bedding should be washed in hot water (separate from all other laundry) or dry cleaned before or soon after the treatment to avoid resurgence

of bed bugs. Pillows should also be placed in the dryer on high heat for a minimum of 20 minutes. After treatment, bed skirts should be avoided; bedding tucked in tightly; and beds kept a few inches away from the wall. We also highly recommend Bed Bug Mattress Encasement's to be put on both Mattresses and Box Springs.

### **DRESSERS AND NIGHT TABLES**

All contents of dressers are to be placed in garbage bags and placed in the dryer cycle on hot for a minimum of 20 minutes. All articles on top of dresser are to be removed and placed in plastic bags or plastic totes. Bookshelves, nightstands or other furniture in the immediate area must be emptied so that the technician can spray the undersides of the furniture. Furniture and items should be moved at least 12 inches away from the walls to facilitate spraying of the baseboards. Shelving and drawers should be clean.

### **SOFAS AND CHAIRS**

All chair covers, throws and pillows must be bagged prior to treatment. They can be put in dryer and brought up to temperature, then placed back.

## **CLOSETS**

All closets including linen closets are to be emptied. Clean articles should be placed in the dryer on high heat for a minimum of 20 minutes. All soiled articles need to be washed in hot water and then dried in high heat. Laundromat dryers may have lower heat settings and may not heat up to 140° F, so the full cycle should be used.

## **BABY CRIBS**

All linen should be laundered. All toys should be washed in soapy hot water and stuffed toys should be placed in dryer on high heat for 20 minutes.

## **AQUARIUMS**

Fresh Water Aquariums may remain in place as long as the filtration and aeration systems are turned off and the tank is adequately covered, please ask about Salt Water Aquariums. Filtration and aeration equipment should be turned back on 6 hours after treatment.

## **OTHER ITEMS**

If not mentioned above, other items such as electronics can be bagged prior to treatment, then inspected afterward. These items are best to stay in the room they usually are in. You can contact our office prior, or leave a note about other questionable items. The most critical areas are within 5 feet of the bed. Our goal at treatment is to use enough residual material that as they move at night they will come in contact with our treatment.

## **AFTER TREATMENT**

Once floors have dried reentry is fine. Air out the inside air by running your HVAC system and opening doors for 5 minutes. Use your dwelling as you normally would, no additional steps are necessary. Finish laundering clothes and putting things back in place. Inspect your items as you move them back to look for signs of infestation, if questionable leave all items in bag. **It is not unusual to still see some bed bugs signs up to one week after treatment.** Note areas that you see them in **after one week.**

## **FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION**

A re-inspection is included in our program. Call the Management to schedule a follow inspection two weeks after the initial treatment.

## **MATTERSS ENCASEMENTS**

The use of encasements can prevent bed bugs from getting inside the mattress and box spring. They can be used to protect your current or replacement beds, and are the most effective way to aid in controlling bed bugs in an infested dwelling because they limit current and potential hiding places where our treatment cannot reach. Well built encasements have the end of the zipper tuck 2" to 3" into a pocket at the end of the zipper. These can be purchased as local retailers like Wal-Mart, Target and Bed Bath & Beyond, or through Southeastern. New research shows that bed bugs can live more than 4 months, not 12, without feeding, but can feed on pets as well as humans. In infested bedding, encasements do just that, encase the bed bugs inside the bed where they cannot get to you.

## **DISPOSAL OF FURNITURE**

Discarding beds, bedding, and furniture is NOT a sound approach to bed bug control as they can be easily re-infested. Furniture that is infested with bed bugs that cannot be salvaged needs to be disposed of in a manner that will prevent the further spread of bed bugs. Take apart, deface, spray paint or damage the piece of furniture to ensure it cannot be reused. In the process of removing a piece of furniture, bed bugs can escape into hallways and make their way into new apartments spreading the problem to new areas. Wrap the furniture in plastic so bed bugs cannot escape, this should be done in the unit before the mattress is removed.

## **HEALTH CONCERNS**

Reoccupying treated areas should not cause any problems for people in normal health after treatment area is dry. Anyone who is pregnant or has allergies asthma or other compromised health issues should take the necessary precautions. Please consult your Physician.

## **TEMPERATURE AND BED BUGS \***

113° F - 7 hours to kill all bed bugs  
118° F - 90 minutes to kill all bed bugs  
122° F - < 1 minute to kill all bed bugs

\* - Recommendations refer to temperatures at bed bug harborage areas, not ambient air temperatures.

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