

## How to Get Ready for Your Bed Bug Service Visit:

**YOUR COMPLETE AND TOTAL COOPERATION IS A MUST!!!**

Bed bugs are tough to control. They hide in many places... in beds, closets, and furniture, behind pictures, in tiny cracks in the wall so inspections and treatments must be thorough. Pest control technicians need your cooperation in order to control bed bugs successfully.

Before technicians can treat your home, you must prepare your home for service.

Here's how:

### Strip your beds

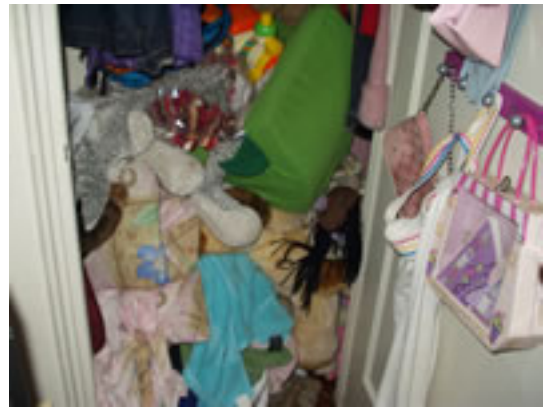
Remove all sheets, blankets, mattress covers, pillowcases, etc. from your beds and wash them. After washing, place them in plastic garbage bags. Do not put them back on the bed until the evening after the pest control service.

#### Mattresses stripped of all sheets



**Strip your beds of sheets, blankets, mattress covers, etc.**

#### Cluttered rooms and closets



**A cluttered room and closet makes it impossible to control bed bugs**

### Remove everything from bedroom and hall closets

Your closets **must be empty**. Empty **ALL** dresser drawers and night stand drawers. Take everything out of nightstands and other furniture near the beds. Dresser drawers and nightstands **must be empty**. Remove **ALL** clothing, toys, boxes, etc. from bedroom floors. Place items in the living room.

### Wash **≧ ALL ≦** clothing, towels, curtains and other linens

**This means everything...** and place the clean items inside plastic storage bins or plastic garbage bags. Store them in the living room until after the treatment.

### Vacuum

Vacuum floors, furniture, inside closets, dresser drawers, and bed frames. Also vacuum mattresses and box springs. **Dispose of vacuum bag in an outside trash.**

### Provide access for pest control technician

Make sure the technician can get into all closets. If possible, move bedroom furniture away from walls so there is a 3 foot space between the furniture and walls. Also remove all electrical wall plate covering in the bedrooms, so that treatment can be made within these areas of the walls.

### Avoid contact with insecticide until it has dried

Make sure there are **NO animals** or **people** inside your home during the treatment and for the time frame that the pest control technician has specified.

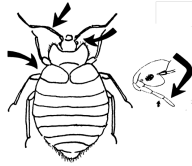


**EXTERMINATING COMPANY, INC.**

This is to inform you that your home will be treated for bed bugs on \_\_\_\_\_.

**PLEASE REMEMBER:** The more you help. The more we can help to provide a better treatment.

**Identification**



- \* Body broadly oval shape
- \* Body flattened when unfed
- \* Wingless
- \* 4-segmented antenna
- \* Piercing/sucking beak on underside
- \* Adult is 1/4-inch long (6 mm)



- \* Unfed bed bug is straw colored
- \* Engorged bed bug is reddish-brown
- \* Covered with short, golden hairs

**Biology and Habits**



- \* Both adult and nymph suck blood; humans are the preferred host
- \* Hides during the day, usually near sleeping areas in cracks in walls, behind baseboards, under mattresses, in box springs, in furniture, under wallpaper or pictures, in drapes, under rugs, under window or door frames
- \* At one time, bed bugs were primarily found most often in barracks, camps, jails, rooming houses, homeless shelters, old hotels, other shared sleeping quarters.
- \* Today, found in hotels, apartments, schools, private homes, and other sites
- \* Also can infest hospitals, nursing homes, trains, planes, buses, cruise ships, theaters, moving vans, etc.



- \* Leaves dark fecal spots on mattresses, bed linens, clothing, and even walls, ceiling, and other surfaces
- \* Scent glands emit a "sickly sweet" odor
- \* Feeds mainly at night, hides during the day
- \* Bed bugs travel up to twenty feet to feed, and occasionally much further.
- \* Can go for months between feedings
- \* Often transported to new locations in luggage, used beds or bedding, secondhand furniture, or clothing
- \* Can migrate from one room or apartment unit to the next through pipe and wiring runs, and in wall and ceiling voids, much as cockroaches move
- \* Painless bite can leave an itchy welt
- \* Feeding does not spread any diseases.