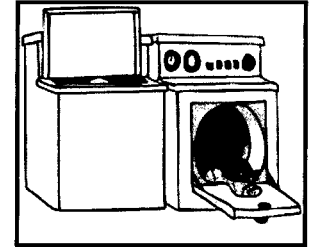


Treating Bed Bug Infestations

Complete elimination of a bed bug infestation can be a difficult process and may require the services of a knowledgeable and licensed pest management company. It may take several treatments to gain control over an infestation. If a “do-it-yourself” method is chosen, only use pesticide products that are labeled to kill bed bugs. Always read and follow the label directions before applying any pesticide product. Here are some additional tips to help eliminate bed bugs.

- Reduce and eliminate clutter. Do not keep piles of clothes, boxes, toys, shoes, etc. on the floor, under the bed, or in closets. They are prime hiding places for bed bugs.
- Heat kills bed bugs. Wash clothes at the hottest recommended setting. Tumble dry the clothes on high heat for at least 30 minutes (120° F or above).
- Encase an infested mattress and box spring in a zippered cover that is labeled and certified “bed bug proof.” Leave the covers on for at least one full year.
- Vacuum home thoroughly and often. Pay particular attention to the area around the bed and the bed itself. Sprinkle ¼ to ½ cup of talcum powder on the last section of floor to be vacuumed. The powder will help dry out and kill bed bugs in the bag or cup. Place the vacuum cleaner bag or contents in a sealable plastic bag and discard it in the trash outside.
- Pesticides labeled to kill bed bugs are available over the counter and may provide effective control. However, if the problem persists or is heavily entrenched, contact a knowledgeable, experienced, and licensed pest management professional for assistance.
- Since bed bugs are difficult to control, plan on several thorough treatments to eliminate an infestation.
- DO NOT USE “Bug Bombs”. These products may kill on contact but they are mostly ineffective against hidden bed bugs. They may make the infestation worse by scattering the bugs throughout the home or apartment.
- If an infestation is suspected in a rental unit, contact the building manager or landlord about the problem. Property owners should contact a professional pest control company for advice and assistance. The local health department can also provide assistance on bed bug identification, prevention and control options.
- The property manager and pest management professional may provide preparation guidelines prior to treating for bed bugs. Getting rid of bed bugs is a cooperative effort and these guidelines should be followed closely.



Wash sheets and blankets in hot water and dry them thoroughly in a hot dryer before making up the bed



A zippered bed bug proof cover can help protect against



Do not use foggers

Preventing Future Infestations of Bed Bugs

- Do not bring discarded bed frames, mattresses, box springs, or upholstered furniture into the home.
- Carefully inspect used or rented furniture prior to bringing it into the home.
- Place any recently purchased clothes, whether new or second hand, into the dryer at a hot setting for at least 30 minutes (120°F or above).
- When traveling, inspect the bed, headboard, and furniture upon arrival. Keep suitcases off the floor and bed and inspect them before leaving. Wash and dry all clothing, per the above recommendations, after returning home.
- Caulk and seal any cracks and crevices throughout the home, especially in rooms where people sleep.
- Be careful of who stays overnight or sleeps at the house. Likewise, be mindful when staying away from home. Inspect all children’s backpacks, stuffed animals, and other belongings if they have stayed overnight or spent considerable time at another location.

