



Bed Bug Conventional Treatment Preparation For Active Units

Overview

The purpose of this preparation is to complete basic cleaning activities and allow unrestricted access to typical bed bug activity areas. It is not unusual for furniture or bedding to be completely turned upside down to be inspected and/or treated. Effective treatment can only be done if properly prepared.

Due to bed bug biology (small size, cryptic, nocturnal) treatments are very thorough. This is a very labor intensive process by all parties involved. EHS realizes this but cannot stress enough that all preparation must be completed. Eliminating bed bugs takes a cooperative effort from everyone involved.

Conventional treatment is a type of remedial treatment with pesticide to address current activity. Typically, two services are conducted in a conventional treatment. Preparation for the initial treatment is most time consuming. After a treatment, avoid using harsh cleaning chemicals as they can limit application effectiveness. Allow time for the treatment cycle to be completed before expecting full results.

Do NOT attempt to perform your own chemical treatment, as it may cause our application to become ineffective or cause insects to move to unpredictable areas. Nonchemical actions such as vacuuming, steam ironing, and laundering work well to control bed bugs in certain circumstances for items that cannot be chemically treated.

If you notice any insects, insect skins, or dark staining/fecal spots of these insects during your preparations, please report these to your property manager and our inspector. Clear zip lock type bags or clear tape work well to contain insects for later identification. Leave a note for our inspector with any observations and specific locations if you cannot be present during our inspection.

Preparation

Do not remove items such as mattresses or furniture from the residence until all treatments are completed. If there are items with suspected activity, they must be addressed.

Declutter and vacuum: Minimizing clutter creates room for working and manipulating furniture for treatment. Vacuuming removes dust and debris that can interfere with applications.

- Bagged or boxed items can be stored in the bathroom or kitchen as treatments are not intensive there.
- Remove items from the tops of furniture (knick knacks, breakable items, pictures, etc.)
- Clear drawers from bedside furniture (bedside furniture is often turned over during a service). Ideally, bed room items are left in the bedroom.
- Remove sensitive items from drawers as drawers will be removed to treat inside furniture.
- Clear floor areas in bed rooms, living room, and closets.
- Vacuum floor areas; turn over throw rugs to vacuum the underside.
- Immediately dispose of vacuum bags to trash rooms or exterior trash areas.

Launder: Clothing, linens, and other fabrics cannot be treated chemically but laundering is an appropriate control method provided there is high DRY heat for 20 minutes. Washing before drying is generally recommended as even slightly soiled fabric is best washed before the drying process. Launder the following:

- Any clothing that has been sitting on a floor, bed, or couch.
- Bed linens, bed skirts, and other bed related fabric.

Blankets that have been on couches or upholstered furniture.

Other washable items on couches or sleeping areas must be laundered if there are signs of bed bugs on them.

Keep all laundered items in a new unused clear bag (e.g. clear garbage bags) or container that is tied shut or sealed until treatment is completed.

Do not reuse bags for clean laundry as bed bugs could remain inside.

If items with suspected bed bug activity cannot be laundered before treatment, keep them isolated in a clear tied bag until they can be laundered.

The service person may determine that additional items (e.g. drapes) require laundering.

Organize for access and treatment:

Food and related edible items must be covered or placed in cabinets or covered boxes.

Remove items from underneath beds as bedding will be turned over.

Clear perimeters of all bedrooms and living rooms. Wall and rug edges are serviced in detail.

Provide access to wood furniture, headboards, nightstands, mattresses, box springs, and similar for treatment. EHS can move furniture if it has been decluttered.

All occupants and pets must be removed before and for at least four (4) hours after treatment. Fish tanks can be covered with the air pump disconnected.

Treatment Expectations

The utmost care goes into treating your home & possessions. We treat them as if they were our own.

- The bed will be dismantled.
- The mattress and box spring may be left leaning against a wall.
- The dust catcher will be removed from box springs, couches, and other furniture when present.
- Pictures may be taken off the wall.
- All drawers will be removed.

EHS will not throw away any personal possessions of yours. We may make suggestions to dispose of specific items. It is then up to you or a property manager to ensure this happens. Typically these recommendations are made when we feel they are too heavily infested, compromised (damaged), or untreatable for whatever reason. Disposing items may be a good option in some cases but it does not ensure you are “throwing away your infestation”.

When heavily infested items are recommended for disposal, complete the following to avoid scattering of bed bugs and eggs.

Write on the outside “INFESTED WITH BEDBUGS – DO NOT USE”

Damaged the infested item (e.g. razor knife cut or spray painted) to prevent reintroduction into society.

Place the furniture/items in a plastic bag or poly tarp and tape it closed with duct tape.

Discard in trash according to disposal guidelines for your building or city/town.

We intend to utilize one or more of the following materials: Phantom Aerosol (EPA Reg. No. 7969-285), Cimexa (EPA Reg. No. 73079-12), or Transport Mikron (EPA Reg. No. 8033-109-279). There may be situations where we find it necessary to use other EPA registered materials. If you have any questions, please call our office.

Additional information is available from:

The Pregnancy Exposure Infoline -----	800-322-5014
National Pesticide Information Center -----	800-858-7378
Massachusetts Poison Information Center -----	617-232-2120
MA Department of Food and Agriculture, Pesticide Board -----	617-626-1776
MA Department of Public Health -----	617-624-6000