

PEST CONTROL INFO

FACT SHEET:

HOW TO HIRE, WORK WITH AND PREPARE FOR A PEST CONTROL COMPANY

The accepted best way to deal with bed bug infestations is Integrated Pest Management (IPM). IPM combines a variety of techniques and products that pose the least risk to human health and the environment.

After careful assessment by you or your landlord, a professional pest control service may be called in to apply pesticide spray or steam treatment. Only licensed pest control companies should apply pesticides for bed bugs. Foggers and bug bombs are not effective against them. Choose the right company. Be clear about what you want done and make sure they do a good job. Controlling bed bugs may take several treatments. Make sure that the company you hire has a committed treatment plan.

CHOOSING AND WORKING WITH A PEST CONTROL COMPANY

In Ontario pest control companies are licensed. You can find a local licensed company through either the National Pest Management Association or the Structural Pest Management Association of Ontario at:

www.spmao.ca

www.pestworld.org

- The proposed work should follow all of the principles of Integrated Pest Management, not just pesticide application.
- The pest control company should be straightforward and open when discussing details of the service provided.
- Understand what guarantees are being offered. Bed bug management may be difficult to guarantee, because re-infestation from an outside source is possible. It may require several treatments to control the infestation.

HOW DO I KNOW IF THEY ARE A GOOD COMPANY?

Always deal with a qualified and licensed pest management company. Consider asking to see their license. A good company should:

- Be a member of a professional organization, such as the National Pest Management Association, Canadian Pest Management Association, Structural Pest Management Association of Ontario or Ontario Integrated Pest Management Association
- Have experience with bed bug management.
- Inspect your property before giving you a price quote or begin any pesticide application.
- Give you a written inspection report, and an action plan of how to prepare for treatment and prevent further infestation.
- Base quotes on inspection findings. The cheapest services are rarely the best.
- Visit often until the job is done.
- Employ qualified, well-trained pest management professionals.
- Educate you on how to prevent bed bugs.
- Work with you until the bed bugs are gone.
- Treat you with respect.

WHAT SHOULD I ASK THE PEST CONTROL PROFESSIONAL?

WHEN YOU SPEAK TO THE PROFESSIONAL ASK THEM TO:

- Tell you when it's safe to re-enter a treated room.
- Never spray the top of mattresses or sofas, and if needed, to use only small amounts of pesticides on the seams only.
- Use vacuum, cleaning, steaming and other mechanical approaches to remove and kill bed bugs and their eggs.
- If pets or children are present, manage the use of pesticides accordingly.
- Work with you until the problem has been controlled.
- Notify your landlord to inspect adjacent apartments for bed bugs.
- Agree on a service treatment plan and pricing structure.
- Clearly explain what you and the company are each responsible for. If repairs are not part of the service agreement, then the company should provide you with a list of repairs you need to do to solve the problem.
- Walk around your home with you during each visit and explain the work being done.
- Point out any conditions that contribute to bed bugs in or near your property, and provide a written inspection report.

Remember to do your part, and follow up on the company's recommendations.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO BEFORE PESTICIDE TREATMENT?

Before the pesticide treatment begins, all occupants, including pets, must leave the unit and not enter for a minimum of 3 - 4 hours after the technician leaves. Aquariums may remain in place as long as the filtrations and aeration systems are turned off for six hours and the tank is adequately covered. Anyone who is pregnant or has allergies or asthma should take the necessary precautions.

BEFORE TREATMENT:

- All clutter should be removed from the unit.
- If possible, steam clean, wet vacuum or shampoo any carpeting and furnishings.
- Vacuum mattresses thoroughly including the crevices, handles and buttons.
- Vacuum bed frame, baseboards and objects/flooring close to bed.
- Discard the vacuum bag (placed in tightly sealed garbage bag before disposal).
- 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 leave them in the room to be treated.

LAUNDERING

All clothing items should be placed in garbage bags, sealed and emptied directly into the washing machine. Your clean laundry should be placed in new clear garbage bags and sealed during the treatment process. The garbage bags used for transporting clothing articles to the laundry room should be discarded outside the premise as they may contain bed bugs.

For severe infestations, water soluble bags should be used if possible to collect sheets and clothing and put directly into the wash. 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 30 minutes. Some clothing may require dry cleaning.

BEDS

All bedding must be removed before the pest control 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 30 minutes. After treatment, bed skirts should be avoided; bedding tucked in tightly; and the bed kept a few inches away from the wall.

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 a minimum of 30 minutes.

DRESSERS AND NIGHT TABLES

All contents of dressers are to be placed in garbage bags to be transported. Next place them in the dryer cycle on hot for a minimum of 30 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 30 cm (12 inches) away from the walls to facilitate spraying of the baseboards. Shelving and drawers should be clean.

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 30 minutes. All soiled articles need to be washed in hot water and then dried in high heat. Laundromat dryers may have lower heat settings so the full cycle should be used.

SOFAS AND CHAIRS

All chair covers, throws and pillows must be laundered prior to treatment.

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.

If you decide to throw out bed bug infested furniture:

- Take apart, deface or damage the piece of furniture to ensure it cannot be reused.
- Mattresses should be slashed or otherwise damaged to make it unusable and wrapped.
- Wrap the furniture in plastic so bed bugs cannot escape. This should be done in the unit before the mattress is removed.
- Mark your furniture with clear warnings and put in trash shortly before pick-up, so it doesn't sit for a long time.