

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR BEDBUG TREATMENTS

Bedbugs can be difficult to eliminate when they infest your home unless you do your part by cooperating with the pest control company. The following tips will help YOU and your pest management company get rid of bedbugs quickly:

Please don't move your belongings to another home during or before the treatment unless you know they are not infested. You might spread bedbugs to another house or your car or workplace in a backpack or box and then re-infest your home after it has been treated. Move as few items as possible and check them for bedbugs (or heat them) before removing them.

Wash all sheets, blankets, pillowcases, and other bedding in hot water. Place the items in a dryer set on the highest setting that won't damage the items. Dry the things thoroughly and then place them in trash bags. Keep them separate from items that may be infested.

Wash all clothing in hot water and then dry on the highest setting allowed for the clothing. Clothing that can't be laundered and dried (including coats and jackets) can be dry-cleaned or need to be inspected carefully. Do not place clothing in infested rooms/areas until treatment has been completed and the bedbugs have been eliminated.

Place curtains, pillows, towels, stuffed animals, etc., in the dryer set on the highest setting that won't damage the items for at least 30 minutes. Double bag these items immediately after drying.

Carefully inspect all items that cannot be washed: books, electronics, picture frames, plastic toys, etc. If insecticides are used, place children's toys into plastic bags or storage bins (only if they are bedbug-free). If heat is used, the pest control company may want these items left in place to be exposed to the heat treatment.

Store cleaned and dried items in plastic bags until your home has been treated and the bedbugs eliminated.

Vacuum and wash all floors. To prevent bedbugs from escaping, be sure to place the vacuum bag into a plastic bag before disposing of it.

Vacuum the mattress and box spring to remove live/dead bedbugs. Double-bag and discard the vacuum bags in an outdoor trashcan immediately to avoid re-introducing or spreading any bedbugs caught in the vacuum. If the mattress and box spring are encased, be sure to use one that is bedbug proof. These encasements are thick enough so that bed bugs cannot bite through them and have tight zippers that the bugs cannot escape through.



Vacuum couches, chairs, and recliners thoroughly before treatment. Bedbugs are often found in sofas and upholstered chairs. If possible, turn the furniture over or on its side/back and vacuum underneath as well. If there is a dust cover attached to the underside, pull it back and clean areas that need to be treated. Double-bag and discard the vacuum bags in an outdoor trashcan immediately to avoid re-introducing or spreading any bedbugs caught in the vacuum.

A cluttered home is difficult to inspect and treat because bedbugs can find many hiding places. Throw away unneeded items. Pick up and double bag all loose items in bedrooms (e.g., in the bottom of a closet) and other rooms that will be treated. Ensure that these items are treated (if needed) or inspected before returning these items to make sure you are not also returning bedbugs to the treated room(s).

Provide access to walls, closets, and areas around the furniture to allow for a thorough inspection and treatment.