

## Chemical, Vacuum & Steam Preparation Requirements

Premises must be vacated during treatment and 4-8 hours post chemical application completion; this includes pets. If there is someone who is: an infant, pregnant, has respiratory ailments or is chemically sensitive 24-hour re-entry time minimum is recommended. Please aerate the building prior to, during and upon completion of bed bug activity treatment. All windows and doors that can be opened should be open until you return after the treatment. The Senior Technician on-site will conduct a pre-treatment inspection prior to the bed bug treatment. There is a direct correlation between preparation and overall results. The better and more complete the preparation the better will be the result. Technicians will sequentially treat each room with activity present. The treatments will include steaming, heat containers, vacuuming combined with chemical applications and harbourage sealing activities. We often require furniture including couches, chairs, mattresses and box springs to be treated with non-toxic desiccant substances and encased upon re-entry by the residents. We highly recommend that you obtain an inexpensive mattress/box spring cover and/or a plastic couch/loveseat/chair cover if insects are active in your furniture. The technician will have inexpensive covers for sale for \$12.00 each if you wish to purchase them at the time of service. Steam treatment of items is recommended with a dry steamer. Post treatment steaming in areas where chemicals have been applied is discouraged as the chemicals applied can be diluted and chemical dusts in voids can be clumped and rendered ineffective from the steam moisture. Many items can be successfully treated using prevailing environmental conditions. Items stored in enclosed vehicles parked indirect sunlight on hot days for multiple hours are often effectively treated. Items stored in below freezing temperatures for extended periods are also inhospitable to the insects and usually lethal if below freezing temperatures are maintained for extended periods (96 hours minimum).

Every item within rooms with activity should be treated in some way, either by you or by the technician. Ideally, the prepared rooms will be empty of all items except heavy furniture and bedding, all personal items should have been removed and treated. The technician is killing eggs and flushing insects into chemical so good access with minimal clutter is required.



## Bed Bug Treatment Recommended Preparations:

- 1) Remove all blankets, sheets, covers, pillows, bath towels and bag them in preferably dissolvable bags for laundering. Launder clothes and linens on hottest recommended settings. Transport in sealed bags to prevent movement of insects, dissolvable bags preferred. Store cleaned and thoroughly dried items in sealed bags labeled clean until chemical treatment is completed. Gather all bedding and get it laundered in hot water and dried in a hot dryer on highest recommended settings. If you are planning on taking them to a laundry mat, then be sure to have another means to carry your clothes back home. Heat treatment on the highest dryer heat setting of dried items is critical to kill all life stages of the insect. The highest temperature setting should be maintained for a minimum of 30 minutes and the items should be hot to the touch upon removal from the dryer. Hot water laundering of items is desirable in conjunction with effective drying but is not absolutely necessary as the dryer temperature will kill the insect stages independently if completed correctly. Many items such as shoes, pillows, plush toys etcetera can be treated in the dryer on a dryer rack. Manufacturers' recommendations should be followed with alternative treatment methods used if contrary to manufacturers' guidelines.
- 2) Vacuum thoroughly, especially along floor/carpet edges, use a brush attachment to dislodge eggs and insects. Vacuum along the seams of the mattress and box spring, tear the back of the box spring off and vacuum in there. Vacuum inside drawers and closets, furniture, everywhere possible. Now sprinkle some diatomaceous earth, baking powder or talc powder and vacuum it up in your vacuum and then remove the bag. Dispose of the vacuum bag in a sealed plastic bag. Remove from premises immediately. Isolate and wash and/or steam all vacuum cleaner attachments after final use.
- 3) Remove and inspect all belongings from furniture, tables, wardrobes and closets. This includes plastic toys, books and electronics. If free of bed bugs store in tight fitting containers or bags. Please avoid cardboard boxes for storage as insects can hide in the folds and deposit eggs in harbourage areas. All clothing in closets and drawers needs to be treated in the same way and anything that needs to be dry cleaned will have to be sent to the cleaners. Keep the drawers and closets empty. All items must be removed from under the bed and all items out of the closets and drawers. Ideally you will want to take out all dresser drawers for the treatment and take apart all beds exposing the bed frames.



- 4) Move furniture away from edges a minimum of 18 inches. Dismantle bed and other furniture if possible. Hard furniture, floors and walls should be washed with warm soapy water.
- 5) Remove pictures, electrical outlets cover and switch plates from walls. Take down curtains or drapes and launder or dry clean these as well and keep them down for the treatment.
- 6) Eliminate clutter. Dispose of items in tightly sealed disposal bags. Ideally the rooms should be empty of all cloth and plush items except plush furniture.
- 7) Unplug all electrical equipment (Televisions, computers, shredders, radios etc.)
- 8) Fish tanks filters must be unplugged, and the top of tank needs to be covered with plastic during treatment.
- 9) Isolation of items that cannot be washed or steamed is often necessary. Items such as: wax candles, lipstick, plants, medicines, food products, wine products, vinyl items, plastic/vinyl blinds, fire extinguishers/pressurized cans must be removed and isolated for as long a period as possible.
- 10) Wall hangings including oil paintings/photographs may be left in the room.
- 11) Smoke detectors and batteries throughout should be removed.
- 12) Sprinkler system disengaged.
- 13) Life Safety Systems protected.
- 14) Increase house temperature as high as possible.
- 15) After returning reconstruct the beds wearing rubber gloves. Chemical residue should not be removed from treated items for 21-30 days. The chemicals do not stain and must remain to achieve the best results. Do not return all items to their place in the room leave clean clothes in bags and the room as uncluttered as possible for 21-30 days.
- 16) After treatment encase the mattress and furniture as advised by the technician. Follow technician's recommendation to save mattresses, box springs and furniture.



17) Immediately after treatment return to your regular sleep patterns.