

# SENTINEL PEST MANAGEMENT

## **Bed Bug Fumigation Prep Sheet**

If you find that you have a bed bug infestation, you may think that getting rid of your bed will solve the problem. This could not be farther from the truth because while 70% of the bed bugs will likely be found in your bed, 30% of the bed bug population hides in places *close to but not on the bed itself*. To make matters worse, a bed bug can fit into any space as thin as a piece of paper, so they can hide just about anywhere! Some of the places you may find them are in seams of mattresses and bed frames, in closets, in seams of furniture, behind pictures, in tiny cracks in the wall, behind baseboards, in vents, and in cable and electrical outlets. This is one of the reasons they are considered one of the hardest insects to control and why your cooperation in preparing for service is so important.

**Bring as few items as possible:** Bed bugs are great hitch-hikers. Reduce the risk of bringing bed bugs with you and possibly re-infesting your home when you return by only bringing what is absolutely necessary. This includes electronic devices such as radios, clocks, lap tops, readers, etc.

**Wash all clothing you are bringing with you:** Wash and dry the clothing in as hot a temperature as possible *while avoiding any damage*. If you do not want to wash them, put them in the dryer for at least 20 minutes on as high a temperature as possible *while avoiding any damage to your clothing*. Put them in a clear plastic bag immediately upon removing from the dryer. If clothing is brought to the dry cleaners, they must be secured in plastic bags. *Please inform the dry cleaners that you are handing over garments that may have bed bugs in order to reduce the risk of spreading the bed bugs to the dry cleaners or contaminating other customer's clothing.*

**Pack in clear plastic bags:** *We highly recommend against bringing any belongings other than clothing with you, however we understand that baby or kiddie items may be necessary. Cloth items such as baby blankets and stuffed animals must be washed and packed the same way as your clothing. Inspect all non-cloth items individually and put them in a separate bag than your clothing and cloth items. Suitcases, boxes, gym bags, baby bags, or any other container are not acceptable for packing. If anything other than plastic bags are used to transport belongings, the warranty will be void.*

**Put packed bags in a bed bug free area:** Remove packed bags from infested residence immediately after packing. If it is not feasible to remove them, place the bags inside your bathtub until you leave.

**Inspect belongings:** Prior to unpacking items in your temporary residence, inspect the bag for bed bugs *from the outside before removing any items*. If you suspect bed bugs may have been transported, **do not open the bag!** Notify us immediately for instructions. Inspect the items individually once you remove them from the bag. If you suspect an item may have bed bugs, put *all* items back in the bag immediately, and tie it securely. Notify us immediately for instructions.

**Take off mattress encasements:** If plastic mattress encasements are installed on the beds, they must be removed prior to fumigation. *If cloth encasements are being used, they do not have to be removed.*

**Remove garment bags:** Garment bags must be removed from clothing and left open for fumigation

**Pet cages and bedding should be included in the fumigation:** Pet cages and bedding could serve as harborage areas for bed bugs. Do not bring them with you. Be sure to remove any pet food or treats from cages and bedding area.

**Open all storage containers being left behind:** All plastic storage bins should be left open to allow fumigant to permeate stored items such as children's toys, clothing, and Christmas ornaments. If anything is wrapped in bubble wrap, it must be removed prior to fumigation

## Post Treatment Instructions

**Inspect all items:** *We highly recommend that you do not bring any belongings with you in order to prevent the re-introduction of bed bugs into your home.* Inspect all packed bags you bring back into your home for bed bugs. *Inspect from the outside before removing any items.* If you suspect bed bugs are present, **do not open the bag.** Notify us immediately for instructions. Inspect the items individually once you remove them from the bag. If you suspect an item may have bed bugs, put all items back in the bag immediately, and tie it securely. Notify us immediately for instructions. Throw away the empty bags immediately in an outside trash can.

**Mattress Encasements:** We highly recommend mattress *and* box spring encasements *certified for bed bugs* for all your beds to help prevent any future infestations. They can be found online, or you can buy them through us. You must provide us with the sizes of all mattresses **and** box springs. Encasements should be inspected periodically for tears. If tears are found, encasements should be replaced in order to prevent providing an ideal harborage area for bed bugs.

**Do not tamper with installed devices:** Do not remove installed devices such as *climb-ups* or *CO2 devices*. If the *climb-ups* become dusty or dirty, they can be washed with soap and water. Lightly dust the inside with talcum powder and replace under the legs of the beds. If CO2 monitoring devices were installed, do not tamper with them or move them to another location.

**Inspect new items:** Be cautious if bringing new furniture or beds into your home. Thoroughly inspect any furniture *before* bringing inside even if it is new.

**Follow our bed bug prevention tips:** *There is nothing you can do to guaranty that you will not get bed bugs,* but if you follow these tips they may minimize the chances of having a bed bug invasion in your home. If you did not receive a bed bug prevention hand-out, you can download it from our website [www.sentinelpestcontroloc.com](http://www.sentinelpestcontroloc.com).

*The fumigant will kill all stages of bed bugs, however there is no residual after the tent is removed. To avoid an accidental re-infestation when you return to your home and for peace of mind, we recommend a preventative treatment and the installation of bed bug monitors. **Please be assured that the fumigation is sufficient to kill the bed bug infestation in your home.** A preventative treatment and the installation of bed bug monitors are not necessary; they are optional services you may choose to have.*

We understand that dealing with bed bugs causes a lot of stress and affects you physically as well as psychologically. It is normal to feel like bed bugs are still walking on you at night or to experience phantom bites or itching after your bed bug treatment. It is also normal to automatically think you have bed bugs again if you are bitten by another insect. This feeling will gradually go away until you can once again enjoy a good night's sleep.

If you have any questions, please call (949) 716-5222

**Thank You,**  
Sentinel Pest Management

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