

# SENTINEL PEST MANAGEMENT

## **Bed Bug 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.

***WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND AGAINST THROWING AWAY YOUR BED OR ANY SUSPECTED INFESTED FURNITURE.*** IF YOU CHOOSE TO DISCARD YOUR FURNITURE, MAKE SURE IT IS WRAPPED UP TIGHTLY IN ORDER TO KEEP FROM SPREADING THE BED BUGS OR BED BUG EGGS TO OTHER ROOMS YOU CARRY THE INFESTED FURNITURE THROUGH.

**Strip your beds:** Remove all sheets, blankets, mattress covers, pillowcases, etc. from your beds and wash and dry them in as hot a temperature as possible *while avoiding any damage to your bedding.* 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 bedding.* Put them in a plastic bag immediately upon stripping them from your bed and put them directly into the washer or dryer. If you do not bag them and carry the bedding through your home, you risk spreading the bed bugs and bed bug eggs throughout your home. Immediately throw the plastic bags away *outside*, and put the bedding in a new plastic bag after taking them out of the dryer. Do not put them back on the bed until after the service has been done.

**Take apart your beds:** The beds must be taken apart (including the bed frames) so your technician can treat them thoroughly. He must be able to treat all seams and all the niches in the bed frame.

**Remove everything from the closets and bookshelves of infested rooms:** Your closets and bookshelves must be empty. Empty all dresser drawers, nightstands, and any furniture near the beds. Remove all clothing, toys, boxes, etc from bedroom floors. Plush toys must be laundered following the same procedure as your bedding. All stored luggage must be emptied.

**Remove draperies:** Draperies in infested rooms must be removed and laundered following the same procedures as your bedding.

**Wash all clothing, towels, and linens in infested rooms:** Clothing must be transported and washed the same way as your bedding. All your clothing does not have to be washed at once, but they should be left in bags that are securely tied until they are washed. 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.*

**Take off all faceplates:** The faceplates for all outlets, switches, and phone jacks must be removed so your technician can treat them thoroughly.

**Remove all picture frames and mirrors:** Remove all pictures and mirrors from the wall and place in the center of the room for treatment.

**Vacuum:** Vacuum floors, furniture, dresser drawers, bed stands, inside closets, baseboards, and mattress and box springs. Pay special attention to the baseboard area where the wall meets the floor or rug, and to the seams of the mattress and box spring. Use a crevice tool for these areas if you have one. Put the vacuum cleaner bag in a tied plastic bag and discard it in an outside garbage bin immediately.

**Provide access:** Make sure your technician can get into all closets. Move all furniture away from the walls so the baseboards and outlets can be thoroughly treated. Please leave a 3 foot space between the walls and the furniture, but if this is not possible, leave as big a space as possible.

**Cover fish tanks:** Cover fish tanks and turn off air filters. If the fish are expensive or are considered sensitive to changes, we recommend removing the tank from the treatment area. *Sentinel Pest Management is not responsible for any fish that may die directly or indirectly from our service.*

**Turn off pilot lights:** Pilot lights for stove, wall heater, water heater, and all other gas appliances must be turned off if the Actisol (fogging) machine is being used. The gas to the home does not need to be turned off.

**Leave the premises:** You must be prepped and ready to leave when the technician arrives, and be gone for a minimum of four (4) hours *after treatment is completed.* Please keep in mind that the mandatory four (4) hours **does not** include the time it takes the technician to do the treatment.

## Post Treatment Instructions

**Avoid contact with product until dry:** There can be no pets or people in the home during treatment and for at least *four (4) hours after treatment is finished*. Upon re-entry into your home, avoid any areas that are still damp.

**Vacuum:** Vacuum 48 hours after service and as often as possible after that, especially around the beds. Try to avoid vacuuming up any applied dust left on baseboards. Please do not steam clean your carpets for at least 1 week after the final treatment.

**Mattress Encasements:** We *require certified bed bug mattress and box spring encasements for all your beds* to help control the infestation as well as 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. The encasements must be installed upon re-entering your home after the 1<sup>st</sup> service. ***If encasements are not installed when the technician returns for the 2<sup>nd</sup> service, the guaranty is considered null and void.***

**Do not tamper with installed devices:** Do not remove installed devices such as climb-ups or monitors. Do not remove encasements for the follow-up services. 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. Encasements should be left on for at least 18 months. They can be removed for laundering after 3 months, but should be immediately replaced after removing from dryer.

**Keep all clothing secured:** If possible, all clothing, towels, etc should remain in sealed plastic bags until after the final treatment. Any items put back in closets or drawers must be removed, re-bagged in unused bags, and re-laundered prior to the follow-up service. **Do not re-use plastic bags.**

**Do not remove furniture or objects:** Do not remove furniture or any objects from infested areas until after the last treatment has been completed. If you choose to throw away your bed or furnishings, it is highly recommended to wait until after the final service to avoid contaminating 'clean' environments. If you choose to throw your bed or furnishings away before service, you must wrap it up before removing it. ***The bed or furnishings must be clearly marked as bed bug infested*** so other people avoid taking them and contaminating their own home. If possible, destroy the bed or furnishing to make them unusable.

**Do not bring in new furniture:** Do not introduce any new furniture into your home until after the final treatment has been completed. Inspect any used or new furniture brought into the home to make sure you are not re-introducing bed bugs back into your home.

**There will be 2 repeat visits spaced 1-2 weeks apart. Preparation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> treatment is the same as the original treatment. The 3<sup>rd</sup> visit includes a less intense treatment and faceplates do not need to be removed as long as no bites have occurred and no bed bugs have been seen. If bed bug presence is still suspected, then preparation should be the same as the first two treatments. A thorough inspection will be done along with the 3<sup>rd</sup> treatment. We must be allowed to do all 3 treatments or the guaranty will not be honored.**

*If we cannot do a thorough treatment due to the rooms or necessary areas not being properly prepared, or if we cannot do the treatments in the necessary timeline (through no fault of Sentinel's) the guaranty is null and void.*

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

**Thank you for allowing us to help you with your pest control needs**  
*Sentinel Pest Management*

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