



Bed Bug Chemical Treatment Pre-treatment Check List

The pre-treatment check list details the steps and preparation that occupants should take to prepare for bed bug chemical treatment. Each step must be complete in order to obtain the best results. People and pets should be out of the premises for four hours during service. A follow up treatment is highly recommended two weeks after the initial treatment.

1. All bed linens, clothing, curtains, towels etc. should be removed from infested rooms and laundered in HOT WATER and dried on the hot cycle of your dryer for at least 60 minutes. If something cannot be washed in hot water, it should be dry cleaned. Place those items in a sealed bag before taking them to the dry cleaner. Such cleaning procedures will kill any bed bugs and destroy any eggs that might be present.
2. Once clothing and linens have been washed and dried, store them in plastic totes with tight fitting lids or in tightly tied clean plastic bags; do not place them back into bedroom furniture until the infestation is eliminated.
3. Put shoes, purses and other personal items into tightly closed plastic totes or in tightly tied plastic bags. Dry any of these items that can be on hot setting for 60 minutes before storing.
4. Empty all Bedroom Furniture. Remove all items from dressers, nightstands, shelves and any other type of furniture in bedrooms prior to treatment. Items should be stored in plastic bags or totes until the infestation is eliminated.
5. Eliminate clutter. Clutter provides an infinite number of areas for bed bugs to hide and lay eggs. It provides safe havens for bed bugs in areas that cannot be effectively treated. If cluttered conditions persist, even a professional may only be able to reduce the number of bed bugs and never completely eliminate the problem. Do your best to eliminate clutter.
6. Unplug lamps, televisions and any other electronic devices. The service technician will need to remove all outlet covers to inject insecticide dust into the wall voids as these areas commonly harbor bed bugs.
7. Move furniture and other objects 3 feet away from the perimeter of the room if possible in bed rooms and living areas.
8. Do not store things under the bed. Items stored under the bed give bed bugs additional undisturbed areas to hide where they will be well protected from chemical treatments. Remove any items that have been stored under the bed prior to treatment.
9. Vacuum thoroughly. Prior to the treatment, vacuum all carpeting thoroughly. Sprinkle about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of talcum powder or cornstarch on the last section of the floor to be vacuumed. This will suffocate bed bugs that are vacuumed into the canister. When finished, place the bag or contents of the canister in a tightly sealed garbage bag for disposal. Next, put the vacuum in a plastic bag. (Bed bugs can live in the vacuum).
10. Install mattress and box spring encasements. Whether you are planning to discard mattresses from bedrooms that are infested and purchase new mattresses or you would like to keep your current mattress; it is highly recommended that mattress and box spring encasements be installed. Be sure that the encasement you choose is specifically for protection against bed bugs. The encasements should have locking enclosures and should be escape proof. Ask Valley Pest Control for information and pricing on mattress encasements. Encasements should be put on as soon as treatment is dry.
11. Take care when discarding infested items. Wrap or bag infested items in the room you are removing them from before taking them out to the curb. This will prevent bed bugs from falling off infested items while being carried through the home and spreading the problem. Be sure to destroy infested items before throwing them out to prevent them from being picked up by other people and spreading the infestation.