

BED BUG REFERENCE SHEET

The abatement of bed bugs **IS** achievable with the collaborative effort by you, the resident, and the pest management plan provided by your pest control company or the management of your building. Please take a moment to read and understand the following information in its entirety.

Due to the habits / biology of the bed bug, good preparation is critical to eliminate this pest in your home. There are a number of steps that need to be performed by you, to aid in achieving the desired results that a pest control company cannot do on your behalf.

Living spaces are individual and unique and it should be taken into account that all these directions may not apply to your living situation OR is it implied that this list is an inclusive set of directions for your living situation. As inspections progress, a request may be made of you that is unique to your living situation.

LAUNDERING TERMS AND INSTRUCTIONS

In reference to this abatement information, in each instance the word laundered shall mean either washed in the hottest temperature possible for the fabric (over 140 degrees is recommended) or if 'wet washing' of the item is not possible / preferable, then items shall be placed in a hot heat dryer for a 40-45 minute period. The hot heat processing eliminates any life-stage of the bed bug.

Each time laundering is to occur; the intended items must be brought down in a sealed plastic bag. When items are removed, the bag should be sealed and carefully placed into a proper garbage receptacle preferably in an outside container. Transferring items slowly and carefully will prevent the spread of the bed bug to other areas. Bed bugs are known hitchhiking pests and are contained only by your careful actions.

Laundered items should return in a clean plastic bag and stored in your home clear of areas where most of your time is spent, with the exception of bedding. There are now dissolvable laundry bag options out on the market.

GETTING READY FOR INSPECTIONS

Please prepare for an inspection in the following manner **each time you receive notification** as it pertains to focus areas. **Focus areas(s)** are essentially where you sleep or spend most of your time as determined by you and also, by the inspection technician, based on inspection findings.

- Plastic zippered mattress cover should be purchased and placed on mattress and box spring(s) immediately to salvage your bed when possible. Use of leg interceptors can add relief.
- If mattresses / furniture are heavily infested, it may be recommended that they be thrown away. Do NOT take action; discarding will be determined during inspection(s). **ANY ITEM(S) (LARGE OR SMALL) TO BE DISCARDED MUST BE MADE UNDESIRABLE (RIPPED/TORN); WRAPPED IN PLASTIC BEFORE REMOVAL FROM THE APARTMENT TO A PROPER GARBAGE AREA **NO EXCEPTIONS**.** If you require additional assistance, it is proper to involve the management staff.
- It is very important to have your apartment free of any /all clutter so that areas may be easily accessed for proper inspection and this will also aid in minimizing pest harborages and or transferring pest to other areas. Properly bag items.
- Beds should be fully undressed and all bed linens should be placed on top of the bed for inspections.

- Place breakable / fragile items surrounding focus area(s) in kitchen or bathroom cabinets /countertops. Inspect items prior to moving items, to prevent spreading of infestation.
- Any manageable furniture should be moved away from walls 3 feet so that carpet edges can be inspected; of course due to furniture weight and floor space, please do your best. Fragile furniture will not be handled; so take care of those personally.
- **During the inspections occupants including pets should not be present.**

STEPS IN BETWEEN INSPECTIONS

Bed linens, inclusive of your sleepwear / pajamas, sheets, blankets, pillows, down comforters, stuffed toys, mattress pads, (not the plastic cover newly installed as previously referenced) and any couch / chair covers that are removable shall be laundered every 3-5 days. Keep in mind that if you choose not to 'wet wash' these items, they must be placed in a hot heat dryer every 3-5 days to keep ahead of any growth patterns.

Books, boxes and other material stored in proximity to focus area(s) must be inspected for signs of activity, bloodstaining. It may be necessary to wipe down books, magazines, files, etc., that create pest harborages and store in plastic tote containers away from any bed and sitting areas. Your thoroughness in cleaning your item(s) is vital to abatement success, as you may minimize emerging growth patterns. Other requests may be made as determined during inspection(s).

Vacuuming should be done with some frequency, and as detailed as possible, as it pertains to your focus area(s). Avoid using bristle hose attachments. Your process should include crevices of bed frames, sitting arrangements such as chairs and couches, around furniture such as nightstands and tables where the piece meets the wall, behind picture frames and wall hangings, where the carpet meets the wall, etc. The bed bug is very secretive and stays away from accessible places.

The vacuum bag should be discarded in a sealed plastic bag after each use, as you want to contain and discard any activity. If you have a bag less vacuum, you will want to be sure to consult with the manufacturer's instructions on how to properly clean the container and the filter, as you want to contain and discard any activity.

Luggage should be inspected and put in a sealed plastic bag and clearly marked for further inspection.

In every instance, items (large or small) that must be discarded or transported away from the apartment must be in sealed plastic bags. Bed bugs are not boring insects and cannot make their way out of sealed plastic bags.

Clearly, this is a lot of information and it is valuable! The abatement of this pest takes your concerted effort along side proper treatments. Inspections may continue for 2 – 5 months, give or take, based upon the findings and your diligence in between inspections.

Please stay in touch with your pest management coordinator, with detailed information (such as bite dates and dwelling location that they occurred) so that further servicing can be scheduled.

This reference sheet has been compiled by Detective Bed Bug, where "bed bug detection is for the dogs". Canine scent detection is an effective step in a sound pest management plan. Get more information at

www.detectivebedbug.com 