

# Bed Bug Preparation Sheet

## Preparing For Your Bed Bug Treatment

Proper preparation is an essential step for ensuring the most effective results from your upcoming bed bug treatment. Xtreme Weed & Pest Solutions will provide detailed instructions on what you need to do before your scheduled treatment in the following document. Preparation involves everything from providing adequate access to your unit or property, to cleaning and post-treatment recommendations.

**Please note:** *Xtreme Weed & Pest Solutions will not provide treatment to any unit or property that has not met the preparations that follow in this instructional document unless management gives approval.*

It is common for items that could potentially provide hiding places for bed bugs, such as book cases and desks, be emptied of their contents and remain empty for treatment. Items previously stored in sealed containers should remain unopened.

1. Empty closets of remaining items and stored items, placing them in plastic bags (securing with zip ties) and moving them into the center of the living room.
2. Remove contents from dressers and night stands so that the interiors may be treated. Items should be placed in plastic bags (secured with zip ties) and moved to the center of the living room.
3. Remove books from shelving and place in bags in the center of the living room.

**Please note:** *All homes or apartment/condo units that are noted to have excess clutter will NOT be treated. A thorough and successful treatment cannot be achieved while there is excess clutter and untidiness in the home. Once the clutter has been removed, treatment can be rendered.*

## Laundering

Everything that can be laundered should be laundered and placed in a clean/new plastic bags (sealed with zip ties) or plastic container and sealed prior to the treatment. The list of items that should be included in laundering are listed at the end of this document and include such items as drapes, stuffed animals, bed skirts, etc.

1. Launder all items (including linens and bedding) according to the manufacturers' label; however, whenever possible use the highest allowable heat settings in both the washer and dryer. Temperatures reaching 140 degrees (or above) have been proven to kill all stages of bed bug development.
2. Bags used to transport laundry prior to the washing/drying cycles should never be reused and should be discarded outside of the property after transportation. All clean items should be placed in new bags, sealed tightly and remain sealed during the treatment process.
3. Items that cannot be washed but that can be dried in the dryer at a high heat temperature for should be for a minimum of 30 minutes. Discard debris collected in the lint trap after each cycle.
4. Items that cannot be laundered should be taken to the dry cleaner.

## Vacuumping

The mechanical removal of bed bugs by vacuuming thoroughly is an important part of preparing for the treatment. The use of a crevice attachment is imperative to access bed bugs hiding inside mattress seams, furniture interiors, baseboards and any place that could accommodate them.

1. Vacuuming floors, carpets and area rugs.
2. Vacuum mattress including all crevices, handles or buttons.
3. Vacuum the headboards, bed frame, sofas, futons, recliners and other over-stuffed and upholstered furniture.
4. Discard all vacuum bags immediately after each use.

**Please note:** *All homes or apartment/condo units that are not prepped as listed on this sheet will NOT be treated and WILL be charged a \$50.00 rescheduling fee.*

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## Disposal of Furniture

There are very differing opinions as to whether or not it is necessary to dispose of mattress, box springs, futons, sofas and other furniture. The cost involved in replacement of beds and other furniture is something to consider when deciding what works for you. It is clear that replacing these items alone will not solve a bed bug problem. The decision to replace the bed unit and other furniture often depends on the condition of and the level of infestation within the items, the comfort of the owner, and whether or not the owner can afford replacement.

Xtreme Weed & Pest Solutions recommends the installation of high-quality, bed bug mattress encasements. Any need to discard the mattress and box spring is often eliminated once it has been treated and covered by a high-quality bed bug mattress encasement. Accurate measurements are taken by an Xtreme Weed & Pest Solutions representative and the encasements are typically installed during the initial treatment. The mattress and box spring encasements further serve to reduce the likelihood that bed bugs will continue to live upon the mattress and box spring.

## If You Decide to Throw Out Your Furniture

Deface, or otherwise damage furniture items so they will not be used by others. Mattresses should be slashed or otherwise damaged to make them unusable and should be wrapped in plastic before being removed from the bedroom. **\*Note:** moving beds without completely enclosing the mattress and box spring in plastic may spread the infestation by allowing eggs, bed bug nymphs, and adult bed bugs to drop from the item as it moved.

## Post Treatment

Once the initial treatment has been completed we recommend staying out of the treated home or unit for a minimum of four hours. This allows for an appropriate amount of time for the materials used to

dry completely. Only after four hours should you, your children, and/or your pets resume residence in your home or apartment. From this point forward you may carry on with your normal household activities; however, in order to prevent the need to repeat any of the steps necessary to prepare for your follow-up treatment, we do recommend that you not move your furniture and items back into place if at all possible. In most cases a follow-up treatment has already been scheduled for you and generally will fall within 2 weeks from the initial treatment.

We do understand that thorough preparation may present a considerable hardship for some, but we cannot stress the importance that it has on the overall effectiveness of treatment. If you should have any questions regarding the content included in this preparation guideline or in the checklist that follows please do not hesitate to contact us.



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