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## Bedbug Treatment Preparation Sheet

Proper preparation prior to bedbug treatment is a mandatory requirement in order for control to be effective. [Assassin Exterminating](http://www.assassinexterminating.com) will outline these requirements and provide detailed instructions on what to do. This is generally done by the resident; although we do offer preparation for an additional charge. Preparation involves providing access for pest control treatment as well as taking measures to ensure that bedbugs are eliminated or contained. If a home is not properly prepared, successful elimination is practically impossible. Although preparation may be difficult for some people (ex. seniors or handicapped individuals), it is essential for effective treatment, and thus in such cases family members, friends or social or charitable agencies may need to provide assistance. Please remember that every infestation and situation is different. After the initial inspection our technicians will determine the severity of your infestation. At this time you will be instructed on how extensive your preparations prior to treatment will be.

### The Following Steps Must Be Completed Prior To Treatment So That Elimination Can Be Achieved:

- All bedding must be removed and laundered.
- All dresser / night stand drawers must be emptied and the items laundered and placed in sealed plastic bags.
- All items must be removed from closets and laundered and placed in sealed plastic bags.
- All items must be removed from walls and stacked in the middle of the room so they can be inspected for bed bugs.
- All bookshelves must be cleared off and the items placed in plastic bags.
- All luggage must be empty so it can be inspected and treated if necessary.

**Do not reuse plastic bags as this may result in transferring bed bugs to items that did not have them before. After the initial treatment, your mattress and box spring should be placed in a Bed Bug Mattress Cover. Bed bug mattress covers can be purchased anywhere bedding and mattresses are sold.**

### Packing

In some cases all furniture and appliances in the dwelling usually need to be pulled away from the baseboards. It is commonly asked that all furniture containing potential hiding crevices, such as bookshelves and desks, be emptied and left open for our Pest Control Technicians to treat. Items in tightly sealed containers are usually safe from bedbug infestation and need not be emptied. We may declare an item untreatable upon inspection--especially items of wood or paper.

### Laundry

Everything that can be laundered *should* be laundered, and laundered in advance of the treatment, then placed in plastic bags. This would include stuffed animals, drapes, floor rugs, etc. These items should be securely placed and tied inside plastic bags, and then emptied directly into the machines. The bags should then be immediately disposed of. It is heat, not water that kills any bedbugs residing within the laundered items; therefore items should be washed in hot water, regardless of normal washing directions, and should be dried with medium heat (preferably high heat) for 40 minutes or more. (For those who have the ability to measure the temperature of the water in their washing machine, or of the hot air in their dryer, the target heat range is 120°F (49°C).)

If a laundering session such as described above is financially prohibitive, it is recommended that the items needing to be laundered only be run through the dryer, not the washing machine. This remains only "optional" and is not highly recommended. The heat of the drying cycle will effectively kill all stages—eggs, immature stage (nymphs) and adults, however, the extensive water and spinning action associated with washing machines will assist in dislodging bedbugs from where they are residing within clothes and other items and enhance the results. For items that require dry cleaning, the dry cleaners should be informed that the items in question are potentially infested, and the items should be bagged. Cleaners may still refuse to accept them.

## Vacuuming

The mechanical removal of bedbugs by vacuuming is a key step in preparation for bedbug treatment. Vacuuming alone will not solve the problem, but it will substantially reduce bedbug numbers and thus help reduce the population as part of preparing for treatment. A crevice attachment should be used on the seams of mattresses, on box springs, on bed legs, within furniture interiors, behind pictures, on curtains, and anywhere there is a possibility of the insects hiding (e.g. inside dresser drawers, dresser cases, under chairs, etc.). Carpets should also be vacuumed throughout the home, preferably with a power-head. Baseboards should also be vacuumed using the crevice tool—not swept—prior to our arrival. Vacuum bags should then immediately be removed and placed in doubled plastic bags and disposed of outside of the home.

## Managing Bedding

There are differing opinions as to whether it is necessary to dispose of mattress, box springs, futons, pillows, and other bedding. There is of course often a heavy cost involved in the complete replacement of such bedding. It is clear, also, that getting rid of infested bedding alone does not solve the problem. The decision to replace bedding or not depends on the condition of and often the related level of infestation within the items, the comfort level of the owner, whether the owner can afford replacement, and aesthetics. A reasonable rule of thumb is that new bedding does not need to be replaced but if bedding is older and replacement may have been done soon in any case, then of course, replacing it **AFTER** control is a welcome clean start.

Infestation must be handled first and then if new bedding is desired, the old bedding can be disposed of. Spread of infestation in apartment buildings is increased by tenants deciding to throw away old bedding. An infested mattress or box spring dragged in a hallway to an elevator will cause bedbugs to fall off or even run off the item, and these may then find their way into other units. As noted here, the use of protective encasements to protect bedding after treatment or to enclose bedbugs when the items are being thrown away are invaluable in preventing spread of infestation. It is also suggested to slash or mark up infested items so that others do not take them back into the building. Placing bedding material inside vinyl, polyvinyl or polyethylene encasement is a good idea. Bedbugs like to hide near the food source and are commonly found on seams of mattresses, or within the structure of box springs. The mattress and box spring encasements serve to reduce this likelihood and in the case of box springs, it seals any remaining insects inside the encasement. An encasement is a good idea either until the infestation has been totally eliminated or in the case of good quality encasements, useful as a permanent protection for the mattress—and also to enable easier control if infestation recurs.

## How Long Until Complete Elimination?

Bedbug infestations are not successfully eliminated by one treatment alone. [Assassin Exterminating](#) will schedule 3 treatments and or inspections. These are included in your clean-out fee and are made two weeks apart depending on your schedule. It cannot be stressed enough that your help with preparation is an essential step in eliminating a bedbug infested home or apartment. Please understand that Assassin Exterminating has years of experience treating and eliminating bedbugs and all that is asked of you above is for your benefit alone. Many so called full-service Pest Control Companies claim to eliminate bedbugs with one treatment and absolutely no preparation on your part. This simply is not true and will end up costing you more money in the long run. [Always check references and ask what their success rate is with eliminating bedbugs. Their answer should be nothing short of 100%.](#)