



P.O. Box 129
Boulder Creek, CA 95006
800-540-0658

Date: _____

PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR BED BUGS TREATMENT

Bed bugs have been around for millions of years and have been plaguing people throughout history. From the early 1950's to recently, bed bugs became very rare probably due to the use of DDT, Lindane, and other products used after World War II, in addition to other factors. However, after an almost 50 year absence, bed bugs began appearing around the late 1990's and have had a thousand fold increase in the last four years. The resurgence is thought to be partially due to the old chemicals working their way out of the environment along with an increase in world travel.

Eliminating bedbugs is very challenging. It takes a collaborative effort from residents, managers and your pest control route manager to control them. Bed bugs hide in areas close to where people sleep, such as beds, box springs, bed frames, nightstands, dressers, desks, recliners, luggage, closets and clothing, items stored under beds, and clutter within a unit. They can be found in pictures, electrical sockets, smoke detectors, loose wallpaper and drapes.

There are restrictions on how beds can be treated with pesticides. For these reasons, we may recommend that infested beds and box springs be discarded or that approved bed bug mattress and box spring encasements be purchased and placed on all mattresses and box springs in the unit.

The following procedures **must** be complied with prior to the treatment. Failure to comply with the preparation will result in an incomplete treatment and will greatly reduce the effectiveness of the treatment, therefore, the treatment will not be rendered if the preparation is not complete.

If we are called out to a unit on an emergency or last minute pest control service call and we are turned away because the tenant is not properly prepared or the problem was resolved before we arrived, we will charge a \$40.00 non preparation charge.

We recommend being out of the apartment for a minimum of 4 hours after the treatment. Pests i.e.: cats, dogs and birds should be removed from the apartment. Fish tanks should be covered and the pump turned off during the treatment.

Working together will maximize the effectiveness of this pest control program. Please follow these directions.

PLEASE DO:

Beds and box springs: Strip bed of **all** bedding, mattress pads, bed skirts, sheets, and blankets and launder in hot soapy water. When transporting items to the laundry area please bag items and seal to prevent spreading bed bugs. Mattresses and box springs need to be removed from the bed frame and placed against the wall of the bedroom. We **highly recommend bed bug mattress and box spring encasements for both new and old mattresses** (Encasements are available for purchase from California American Exterminator). If it is recommended to discard the mattress and box springs, cut the mattress, or mark the mattress noting it has bed bugs. Also, wrap it in plastic and seal it tightly with tape. **DO NOT LEAVE IT BY THE DUMPSTER**-People have been known to take a FREE mattress, thereby spreading bed bugs.

Move ALL items away from baseboards and carpet edges. **All items**, including unplugged electrical/ phone cords, must be moved at least 24" from the baseboard and carpet edges around the rooms. Baseboards and the edges of carpet provide an excellent harborage area for bed bugs.

Preparation of closets, nightstands, dressers, etc **Empty ALL contents from your closets, dressers and nightstands.** All washable items should be washed in hot soapy water and placed in a hot dryer. Items that cannot be washed, but that are drier proof, should be placed in a hot dryer for 10 to 20 minutes. Heat is a very effective at killing bed bugs and their eggs. It is not recommended that items be taken to a dry cleaner as the bed bugs could potential spread to the dry cleaning facility. If items are taken to the cleaner, please notify them of the possible bed bug infestation of your items.

Reducing clutter is a necessity. Clutter provides an unlimited amount of areas for the bed bugs to hide and cannot be properly inspected and treated. If cluttered conditions continue, California American Exterminator may only be able to reduce the number of bed bugs but never completely eliminate the problem. Do your best to eliminate clutter. All personal items need to be examined closely for bed bugs and wiped off. Place the used cleaning rag in a plastic bag and discard it in a trash can outside..

Do not store items under the bed. Things stored under the bed provide bed bugs additional undisturbed places to hide and protected from treatments and keeps them close to their feeding area, the bed.

Do not change where you sleep or leave you home. Studies show that if you move to a different location to sleep within the unit, the bed bugs will find you. They have evolved over millions of years and are very good at locating potential hosts to feed on. If you move to a different area to sleep, they will find you and this will spread the problem and make it more difficult to resolve.

Vacuuming. Vacuuming is highly recommended for removing bugs and eggs from mattresses, carpet, walls, and other surfaces. Pay particular attention to seams, tufts and edges of mattresses and box springs, and the perimeter edge of wall-to-wall carpets. Afterward be sure to dispose of the vacuum contents in a sealed trash bag and take to an outside trash container.

Luggage: Remove ALL clothing from suitcases, laundering items in a hot water (washer), and then a hot dryer. For those items that cannot be washed place them in a hot dryer for 30 minutes. Once laundered place items in clean plastic bags and securely fasten the bags. **DO NOT PUT ITEMS BACK INTO THE SUITCASES.** For non-clothing items wipe them down and carefully place them in clean black plastic bags, tie the bags securely, and place them in the sun for several days. Immediately place the rag, that was used to wipe down the items into a plastic bag, and discard it in an outside trash can.

DO NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE, TREAT WITH OVER-THE COUNTER PRODUCTS. THESE PRODUCTS COULD INTERFERE WITH THOSE USED BY OUR PROFESSIONAL TECHNICIANS THEREBY, DELAYING YOUR TREATMENT OR CREATING A WORSE SCENARIO. BE PATIENT—BY WORKING TOGETHER WE CAN BE SUCCESSFUL IN CONTROLLING THESE PESTS.

If you have any questions, please contact your manger before the scheduled service. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

No guarantee on this service.

“State law requires that you be given the following information:

CAUTION: PESTICIDES ARE TOXIC CHEMICALS. Structural Pest Control operations are licensed and regulated by the Structural Pest Control Board and apply to pesticides which are registered and approved for by use by the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Registration is granted when the state finds that, based on existing scientific evidence, there are no appreciable risks if proper use conditions are followed or that the risks are outweighed by the benefits. The degree of risk depends upon the degree of exposure, so exposure should be minimized.

ANTICOAGULANT REACTION:

If Rodenticide ingestion occurs, you may experience symptoms of mild shock or bleeding.

PESTICIDE REACTION:

If within 24 hours following application you experience symptoms similar to common seasonal illnesses comparable to the flu: “Contact your physician or poison control center and your pest control operator immediately.”

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Your Resident Manager.....
- Poison Control Center.....(800) 222-1222
- Your County Health Department (Health Questions).....
- Your County Agricultural Commission (Application Information).....
- Structural Pest Control Board (Regulatory Information).....(916)561-8700
- 2005 Evergreen St., Ste. 1500 Sacramento, CA 95815