

# Bed Bug Preparation Sheet

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Eco Elite Pest Control

## PREPARING FOR A TREATMENT

To ensure a successful program of bed bug eradication, the following measures should be completed by the customer prior to Eco Elite Pest Control arriving at your location. **PREPARATION IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR FOR GETTING RID OF BED BUGS.** Without full participation from the customer, it can be very difficult, if not impossible to eradicate bed bugs. The better the preparation, the more likely it is we eradicate bed bugs in one or two treatments.

**Please note, that if preparation is not done when our technicians arrive for treatment, Eco Elite Pest Control will either 1). Perform a treatment as best as we can given the circumstances. You will still be charged the regular rate, even though a full treatment wasn't performed, or 2). We will reschedule for a different day and charge a \$99 trip fee. The technicians holds the right to make the choice at time of service.**

Please see our checklist on the following page for instructions on how to prepare for a treatment.

## HOW MANY TREATMENTS DOES IT TAKE TO GET RID OF BED BUGS?

Bed Bugs can be very difficult to eradicate and there is no silver-bullet to getting rid of them. If prep work is done properly, then most customers only need one or two treatments, but this is not always the case. Some customers require three or more treatments. One thing to keep in mind is that bed bugs are hitchhikers, meaning they get a ride into your home. This can be from luggage, clothes, used furniture, friends, family, yourself, etc.. If bed bugs are continually introduced into your home, it can make a bed bug issue an ongoing problem.

In multi-unit settings, such as apartment or town homes, it's possible that the bed bugs are coming from another unit. Unless the source of the problem is found, you can be dealing with an ongoing issue. In multi-unit settings we do recommend inspections be done in all units to help discover the source and then treat the infested units.

Please give each treatment 2 to 3 weeks to work properly. Bed bugs are not eliminated immediately. If treated

directly, then a bed bug will die off quickly; however, most bed bugs are in hiding and are not treated via "direct hit". As they come out of hiding, they will come in contact with our treatments, but it does take time to work. If after two to three weeks you are still having issues, then it's time for another treatment. It's recommended to treat every two to three weeks until they are eliminated. Please contact our office to setup any follow-up treatments, if needed.

## TREATMENT METHODS

We are always looking for new and effective treatments, so our procedures may change from one treatment to another. Generally speaking though, here are some of the things we do:

- 1. Steam.** We use a portable steam machine that produces steam at such high heats that it penetrates cracks and crevices where the bed bugs are hiding. The high heat kills them and their eggs instantly. We use the steam machine on mattresses, box springs, furniture and other hiding places.
- 2. Chemical Application.** Bed bugs have shown resistance to today's chemicals, so we do not rely on chemicals alone to get rid of them. We will apply various chemicals where there is bed bug activity. Some products we use are organic, some are green and some are synthetic. Your health and safety are our number one concern, so when using chemical inside your home we apply it in a method that won't affect you or your family.
- 3. Monitor.** We may use various types of bed bug monitors to see where bed bug activity is present and see where they are tracking.
- 4. Slow-Release Fumigant.** Many times we will use slow-release fumigants for items placed in bags. This will penetrate hard to treat items, such as electronics, and kill all bed bugs and eggs.



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## PREPARATION CHECKLIST

#	Description/Instructions	1st Treatment	2nd Treatment (If needed)	3rd Treatment (If needed)
1.	In rooms with bed bug activity, wash all linens (sheets, blankets, pillow cases), clothing, curtains, stuffed animals, etc., in the highest allowable water temperature and dry on the hottest allowable setting. Check your manufacturer's label. Once dried, put items in a room that is not being treated for bed bugs. Beds should have no sheets on them when we arrive.			
2.	In rooms with bed bug activity, dry clean any items that cannot be washed.			
3.	Remove all items from dressers, night stands, closets, etc. . If they can be laundered, please do so. If they are items that cannot be laundered (books, electronics, etc.), then place them in garbage bags. Garbage bags MUST be 2 mil thick. We will place a fumigant in these bags and the bags are to remain sealed for at least one week. <u>Please see our section on Bag Fumigants for more information.</u>			
4.	Bed bug treatments are a good time to get rid of items you don't need anymore. Particularly items such as boxes, papers, magazines, etc.. Get rid of clutter.			
5.	Move all furniture, including the bed, 2 feet from the walls.			
6.	Vacuum thoroughly! This includes the floor, but also use a crevice attachment and vacuum beds, bed frames, closets, dressers, etc.. Vacuum daily until bed bugs are eliminated.			
7.	Remove plates from wall outlets in rooms with bed bug activity.			
8.	Any luggage used recently, should be emptied and placed in a room for inspection and/or treatment.			
9.	Remove all items from shelves, picture frames, artwork, wall clocks, and decorative items from the walls. Place them on the floor in the same room. Our technicians will inspect and/or treat accordingly.			
10.	Humans and pets should remain out of treated rooms for 4 hours following a treatment.			
11.	If tolerable, shoes should be placed in a dryer for 30 minutes. If not tolerable, place in trash bags for a fumigation treatment. See item #3 above.			
12.	In large or difficult infestations, we recommend purchasing mattress and box spring encasements. Make sure you purchase a good quality one and it says bed bugs on the packaging. Put the encasement on AFTER our first treatment. Keep them on for the life of the mattress and box spring. Many stores sell these in their bedding section or you can purchase online from places such as Amazon.			

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## BAG FUMIGANTS

For items that cannot be laundered in hot water, we recommend you place them in a large garbage bag. DO NOT close the bags yet. Allow them to remain open so we may inspect and also place a fumigant strip in the bags. It is very important that you:

- 1) Do not fill the bags more than 75% full
- 2) Please use bags that are at least 2 mil thick. We strongly recommend the Husky Contractor Clean-up Bags, which are found at almost all hardware stores in the cleaning aisle or on Amazon.
- 3) Do not use any bags with holes in them.
- 4) Do not sleep in the rooms where these bags will be placed.
- 5) After closed, do not open the bags to remove items from inside.

Most customers need less than six bags. Up to six bags of fumigant will be included in your price. **If you need seven or more bag fumigants, then an additional charge of \$10 per bag will be added to your invoice.** **If you do have seven or more bags to be fumigated, please let our office know at least 12 hours prior to your treatment so we can make sure your tech has the proper quantity.**

The bags need to remain closed for a minimum of one week to work properly. We recommend that Eco Elite Pest Control open the bags for you after the week is over. Please contact our office to schedule a time for us to do so. Though it is not recommended, some customers choose to open the bags themselves. If you do open them yourselves, you need to open the bags in a room with good ventilation and air out for 2 hours. In the bags you will find one fumigant strip per bag. They are little white plastic boxes with a blue strip in the middle. DO NOT touch the blue part. Discard the fumigant strip into a small bag and take out of the home. Once the room has aired out for 2 hours, you may take items out of the bags. If live bed bugs are seen while doing so, then we recommend sealing the bags for another week.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**WHAT DO BED BUG BITES LOOK LIKE?** Each person reacts differently to bed bugs and many people do not react at all. There is no way to tell if someone has bed bugs based on bites/reactions. The best way to tell if you have bed bugs is via inspection.

**CAN YOU SEE BED BUGS?** Yes. Though they are small, an adult sized bed bug is similar in size to a lady bug. There are different stages in the life of a bed bug, and some stages they are very small, but you can see them with the naked eye. Bed bug eggs can be hard to see as they are a white/translucent color.



**HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE BED BUGS?** The most common

answer is from the bites; however, some people do not react to bed bugs. Some customers actually see the bed bugs. The easiest way to tell is to inspect. Most of the time if you have bed bugs, they are found on the box spring, bed frame, or corners of a mattress. Many times when inspecting you'll see bed bugs themselves, their white/translucent eggs, or their fecal matter, which looks like small black ink stains.

**SHOULD I THROW AWAY MY MATTRESS?**

Generally you do not need to throw your mattress or any furniture away. Most of the time we can solve your bed bug problem without you going to this extreme; however, some types of furniture can be very difficult to treat. Your technician will let you know if any furniture should be discarded. If you do need to toss out any furniture, take necessary precautions to prevent bed bugs from transferring to other rooms.

**ARE THEY ALWAYS FOUND IN MY BED?**

No. Bed bugs are present where people are present. They are also most active at night, and since they need humans to survive, there's a good chance they will be found in the bed, or near the bed. They can also be found in couches, chairs, carpets, or furniture.

Check out our website for more information:

[www.EcoElitePestControl.com](http://www.EcoElitePestControl.com)