



## Bed Bug Preparation Checklist

1. Wash all linens, bedding materials, clothing, stuffed animals, etc., in the highest allowable water temperature and dry on the hottest allowable heat setting.
2. All laundered items such as linens, clothing, stuffed animals, etc. should be placed in new plastic bags or plastic containers, sealed tightly and relocated to the living room.
3. All clothing items that cannot be laundered must be dry-cleaned. We recommend leaving these items at the cleaners until after the treatment.
4. Remove all items from closets, including any items on closet shelves. Follow the procedure above for laundering all clothing. No items should remain in the closet.
5. Remove all miscellaneous items from dressers, night stands, chests, etc. and place them in plastic bags or sealed containers in the center of the living room floor. None of these items should remain in the bedroom.
6. Vacuum floors, carpets and area rugs. Use the crack and crevice attachment around baseboards, bed frames, sofas, and other furniture items. Discard vacuum bags or contents after use.
7. All luggage that has been used recently during travel must remain empty so that it may be inspected and treated if necessary.
8. Remove all shelves, picture frames, artwork, wall clocks, and decorative items from the walls and place on the floor in the same room as they were hanging. These items must be inspected and treated if necessary.
9. All large pieces of furniture must be pulled at least 2 feet away from the baseboards in every room of your home.
10. Birds, cats, dogs, and humans must remain out of the home during treatment and at least a minimum of 4 hours after the treatment is complete. Fish, and reptile tanks must be covered or removed. Air filters and filtration systems for aquatic fish should be turned off during treatment.
11. All mattress and box spring covers must be removed from mattresses & box springs prior to our arrival unless you have previously installed an encasement that was specifically designed to control, prevent, and eliminate bed bugs.
12. Remove and discard the box spring backing (the thin, fibrous material that is stapled to the bottom of the box spring) before the treatment.
13. Cribs, crib mattresses, and other baby furniture will be inspected and treated as needed.
14. Shoes should be placed in new plastic bags or plastic containers, sealed tightly and relocated to the living room. If shoes can tolerate a dryer cycle, first place them in the dryer on hottest cycle for 30 minutes. No shoes should be left in the bedroom or closet.

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 the 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 many 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.

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, please do not hesitate to contact us at (417) 413-4776.