

PREPARATION FOR BED BUG TREATMENT

1. All clothing must be laundered or put through full dryer cycle on highest heat clothing can tolerate without damage. (See separate sheet on “Bed Bug Laundering Instructions”.) Any items taken to offsite laundry must be sealed in plastic bags for transporting to laundry. Do not use laundry basket or hamper to take clothes to laundry or bed bugs will be transported back to living quarters. Take extra non contaminated bags along for transport back.
2. All bed linens removed and washed in hot water.
3. Carefully remove bedroom window curtains or drapes and immediately bag. Launder in hot water if possible, if not then run through normal dryer cycle on highest heat they can tolerate without damage.
4. Items that can not be laundered such as shoes or stuffed animals should be cycled through a normal dryer cycle on highest heat items can tolerate without damage.
5. DISPOSE of all bags immediately in dumpster or outside trash receptacle. .
6. DO NOT reuse bags or put clean clothes in old bags, DO NOT bring old bags back to living quarters because they are contaminated with bed bugs.
7. Dispose of all cardboard clothing hangers in dumpster or outside trash receptacle.
8. Dispose of all unnecessary cardboard boxes in dumpster or outside trash receptacle. (Store clean items only in sealable plastic containers).
9. All moveable items off bedroom floors.
10. Empty all bedroom drawers for treatment. (Launder items as above in #1 & #4).
11. All pictures and mirrors must be removed from walls and placed out for treatment.
12. Highly recommend purchasing hypoallergenic mattress encasements (sealable) for both mattress and box spring. Place encasements on mattress and box spring after treatment.
13. No persons or pets allowed inside during treatment.
14. All people and pets must remain away for three (3) to four (4) hours after treatment.

Following all these items is important in the treatment of bed bugs. Kirchner Brothers uses the best technology and products known, however bed bugs are carried by people in and out of structures. Kirchner Brothers has no control over these circumstances and cannot guarantee against re-infestation. If you have any questions concerning this preparation sheet, please contact our office:

Kirchner Brothers Pest Control
717 394-8838

BED BUG LAUNDERING INSTRUCTIONS

When washing or drying clothes the main thing to remember is HOT. Since most people don't know how hot their wash water or dryer gets on the HIGH or HOT setting, you should error on the side of drying for a longer time to ensure kill. Clothes or other items such as back packs, fabric purses, stuffed animals, pillows and shoes that don't require washing but do require bed bug disinfection can be put in the dryer as long as they won't be damaged by hot temperatures.

Using a washer: Washing clothes at very hot temperatures will kill bed bugs without the need for a hot dry cycle—although adding a drying cycle will help insure kill. Research* has found one hundred percent of bed bugs were killed when wash water was at 140 degrees F. (60 degrees C.) for a minimum 30 minute wash cycle. Washing at a warm temperature of 100 degrees F. (40 degrees C.) killed all the adults and nymphs, but only 25% of bed bug eggs.

Soaking clothes: Soaking clothes in cold water, without detergent, for 24 hours killed all adults and nymphs, but none of the eggs, so not recommended unless combined with high heat in the dryer.

Dry cleaning: Dry cleaning kills all stages of bed bugs and is a good alternative for delicate items that can't take hot washer or dryer temperatures. Just make sure you are upfront with the dry cleaner so they can take extra precautions when handling your items.

Using a dryer: All stages of bed bugs will die at temperatures of 104-122 degrees F. (40-50 degrees C.). To reach this high temperature, clothes should be dried in a large tumble dryer at the HOT setting for at least 30 minutes (for a 7.7 lb. load). Research* has shown, when items spent only 10 minutes in a dryer on high, 25% of the nymphs and 15% of adult bed bugs survived. Using the COOL dryer setting did not kill any bed bugs at all. This shows that it's the heat that is killing the bugs, not the trauma of being "tumbled."

*Much of the information above was based on research conducted by British researchers R.A. Naylor and C.J. Boase and interpreted by entomology specialist Mike Merchant.

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