

Bed Bug Preparation Sheet

Preparing for your Bed Bug Treatment

Appropriate preparation is an essential step for ensuring the most effective results from your upcoming bed bug treatment. HTS Group will provide detailed instructions on what you need to do before your scheduled treatment in the following information sheet. Preparation involves everything from providing adequate access to your property, to cleaning and post treatment recommendations. We understand that appropriate preparation can be difficult to achieve in a short period of time and that senior citizens or disabled individuals may need additional assistance and time considerations.



Please Note: HTS Group will not provide treatment to any property that has not met the preparations that follow in this information sheet.

Packing and Furniture Preparation

All furniture should be pulled away from the walls and skirting boards at least 2 feet. It is common for items that could potentially provide hiding places for bed bugs, such as book cases and desks, are emptied of their contents and remain empty for treatment. Items previously stored in sealed containers may remain unopened.

1. Remove all bed linen from the bed(s) to be treated.
2. Remove any items from under the bed and in the drawers (especially divan bed drawers) placing items in bags and leaving them in the room.
3. Remove the curtains and nets, place in bags ready to be laundered.
4. Empty wardrobes of remaining (unlaundered) items and stored items, placing them in plastic bags and leaving them in the room.

5. Remove contents from chest of drawers and bedside cabinets so that the interiors may be treated. Items should be placed in plastic bags, leaving them in the room.
6. Remove books from shelving and place in boxes and leave them in the room.
7. Remove all pictures, mirrors and hanging items from the walls so that they may be inspected for treatment.

Please note: All properties that are noted to have excess clutter will **NOT** be treated. A thorough and successful treatment cannot be achieved while there is excess clutter and untidiness in the home. Once the clutter has been removed, treatment can be rendered.



Laundering

Everything that can be laundered should be laundered and placed in clean/new plastic bags or plastic containers and sealed prior to the treatment. The list of items that should be included in laundering are listed at the end of this document and include such items as curtains, stuffed animals, bed linen, etc.

1. Launder all items (including linens and bedding) according to the manufacturers label, however, whenever possible use the highest allowable heat settings in both the washer and drier. Temperatures reaching 140f (60c) degrees (or above) have been proven to kill all stages of bed bug development.
2. Bags used to transport laundry prior to the washing/drying cycles should never be reused and should be disposed of outside of the property after transportation. All clean items should be placed in new bags, sealed tightly, and remain sealed during the treatment process.

- Items that cannot be washed but that can be dried in the dryer at a high temperature, should be for minimum of 30 minutes. Discard debris collected in the lint trap after each cycle.
- Items that cannot be laundered should be taken to the dry cleaner.

Vacuuming

The mechanical removal of bed bugs by vacuuming thoroughly is an important part of preparing for treatment. The use of a crack and crevice attachment is imperative to access bed bugs hiding inside mattress seams, furniture interiors, Skirting boards and any place that could accommodate them.



- Vacuum floors, carpets and rugs.
- Vacuum mattresses including all crevices, handles, or buttons.
- Vacuum the skirting boards, bed frame, sofas, futons, recliners and other over-stuffed and upholstered furniture.
- Vacuum units such as bedside cabinets, wardrobes, bookshelves, drawers etc. inside and out using the crack and crevice attachment of the vacuum.
- Discard all vacuum bags immediately after each use

Disposal of Furniture

There are differing opinions as to whether or not it is necessary to dispose of mattresses, divan beds, bed frames, futons, sofas and other furniture. The cost involved in replacement of beds and other furniture is something to consider when deciding what works for you. It is clear that replacing these items alone will not solve a bed bug problem. The decision to replace the bed unit and other furniture often depends on the condition of and the level of infestation within the items, the comfort of the owner, and whether or not the owner can afford replacement. HTS Group recommends the installation of high-quality, bed bug mattress encasements. Any need to discard the mattress and beds is often

eliminated once it has been treated and covered by a high-quality, bed bug mattress encasement.

If You Decide to Throw Out Your Furniture

Deface, or otherwise damage furniture items so they will not be used by others. Mattresses should be slashed or otherwise damaged to make them unusable and should be wrapped in plastic before being removed from the bedroom.



Note: moving items without completely enclosing them in plastic may spread the infestation by allowing eggs, bed bug nymphs, and adult bed bugs to drop from the item as it is moved.

Post Treatment

Once the initial treatment has been completed we recommend staying out of the treated property 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 return to the property. 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. In most cases a follow-up treatment has already been scheduled for you and generally will fall within 3-4 weeks from the initial treatment. 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 or in the checklist that follows, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Bed Bug Preparation Check List

	Preparation Instructions	1st Treatment	2nd Treatment
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 out of the infested rooms between the initial treatment and follow-up visit.		
4	Remove all items from wardrobes or 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, bedside cabinets, chests, etc. and place them in plastic bags or sealed containers in the centre of the room floor.		
6	Vacuum floors, carpets and area rugs. Use the crack and crevice attachment around skirting boards, 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 skirting boards in every room to be treated.		
10	Birds, cats, dogs, and humans must remain out of the home during treatment and at least a minimum of 2 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. 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 wardrobe.		