

### **Bed Bug Treatment Preparation Guidelines**

First and foremost, there is no way of getting around it: if you want to get rid of bed bugs you need to clean and **get rid of clutter**, especially in your bedroom. Please note: Any room that is found with excessive clutter will NOT be treated. A thorough treatment cannot be achieved while there is excessive clutter and untidiness in the home. Once the clutter has been removed, treatment can be rendered.

**Clear all clothing and textiles from the area within 5 feet of infested beds couches and other such resting areas. This includes curtains. Bag items before relocating. Launder these items in hot water and place into a dryer on the highest heat setting for a minimum of 30 minutes.** The dryer must be capable of reaching temperatures greater than 104° F to kill all stages and must not be loaded to more than 50% capacity. Place all laundered items from dyer directly into new containers and “seal” tightly.

Items that cannot be washed but can be dried in the dryer (plush items, pillows) should be placed in the dryer on the highest temperature setting for a minimum of 30 minutes. Any items that cannot be laundered in a home washing machine or dryer, should be professionally laundered (dry cleaned).

**In advance of our arrival, remove all bedding and loose clothing from infested areas. Do so the day of any scheduled service.** Place in bags and move to the laundry room where they can be placed directly into the washing machine using hot water and/or placed into a dryer as indicated in the step above. Ensure that all bags of freshly laundered items are sealed tightly and place them in the middle of the room, or outside of the treatment area. Ziplock bags are ideal. If normal garbage bags or totes are used, use duct tape to form a tight seal.

Articles under the beds provide an ideal place for bedbugs to hide. As previously mentioned, all cloth items in this area must be laundered and bagged. Larger items that were previously stored under the bed should not be moved since bed bugs may be relocated into other areas of the structure. **Do not remove items from infested rooms that are not in sealed containers. Do not relocate items that cannot be laundered without approval of Lakewood Exterminating LLC.**

Replacing furniture items alone will not likely solve a bed bug problem. The installation of high-quality, bed bug mattress encasements is recommended. **Any need to discard the mattress or box spring is often eliminated once it has been treated and encased.** It is the Customer’s decision to replace beds or furniture. This often depends on their condition and the level of infestation within these items. Also whether or not the customer can afford replacements. If you decide to throw out your furniture, be sure to deface, or otherwise damage, these items so they will not be used by others. **Do not discard infested mattresses, furniture, clothing, or other items without following your municipality’s refuse guidelines.** Do not leave these items in common areas of the structure (hallway, lobby, etc.). Doing so may spread the infestation to adjacent areas, and possibly lead to a return infestation in the original room.

**Do NOT cover your mattress or box spring with homemade or non-bed bug proof encasements.** Such encasements will be removed by the Lakewood Exterminating during treatment. If you do not already have encasements, they should be installed immediately following treatment.

**Make arrangements for all occupants and pets to vacate the premises during the service and for at least 4 hours after treatment. Fish aquariums may be left on site, however, they should be covered and air filters must be disconnected.** Persons with underlying health conditions should consult their family physician where they have concerns regarding re-entry time. When you return home, **be sure that all treated surfaces are COMPLETELY DRY before re-entry.** If any surfaces are not completely dry, leave for an additional 2 hours and attempt re-entry. If offensive odor remains, ventilate thoroughly and leave for an additional 2 hours before attempting re-entry.

A follow-up service will be scheduled approximately 2 weeks after the initial treatment. Unless otherwise directed by Lakewood Exterminating, do NOT completely reassemble your home until this service has been performed. This will reduce the amount of preparation work that would need to be completed if subsequent treatments are necessary.