

Bed Bug Action Plan

PREPARING FOR HOME VISITS

1. Always wear simple clothing when visiting a client's home.
2. Avoid shirts with buttons and pockets (professional looking, long-sleeved, light colored tee-shirts are advisable).
3. Avoid cargo pants or pants with cuffs.
4. Simple shoes that can be thrown in a hot dryer, and that have minimal tread are also recommended.
5. Do not accessorize with anything, particularly scarves, jewelry or handbags.

AFTER YOU ARRIVE:

1. Wear protective booties at all times if bed bugs are suspected or at least when you are uncertain about the presence of an infestation in the client's home.
2. An isolation gown can be worn if you are entering a home where you know there is a severe infestation. An isolation gown should also be considered if you know that you will be moving or carrying items, like a wheelchair from an infested home. An isolation gown should also be worn if you are physically moving people or animals from an infested home.
3. Do not sit on upholstered furniture or the bed. Take a quick look in the cracks of hard chairs before sitting down.
4. Carry only those items with you that are essential to the home visit. Leave everything else in the car.
5. A plastic clipboard can be used to hold your paperwork. A fanny pack can be used to hold your wallet, personal items, spare gloves and booties.
6. Avoid placing anything on upholstered furniture, bedding, or on carpeted floors.

IF BED BUGS ARE DISCOVERED IN THE HOME DURING THE VISIT, REMAIN CALM!

1. Call your supervisor and report the siting.
2. When you return to your vehicle, if you are wearing shoe coverings, remove them immediately and seal them in a plastic bag. Dispose of the bag before you get in the car.
3. If you were wearing an isolation gown remove it by turning it inside out to trap any bed bugs inside.
 - a. Place the isolation gown in a sealed plastic bag and dispose of it before you get in the vehicle.
4. Check your clothing (the back of your pants, tread of your shoes, shoe laces, socks, cuffs and collar).
5. If you find an insect on yourself (bed bug or cockroach), don't freak out. Take a picture of the bug to show your supervisor. Try to have the bug on a white background so it can be easily seen. Use a wet wipe to wipe down the surrounding area, paying attention to seams, buttons and other bed bug hiding places. Wipe downs are not necessary if you do not find any bugs during your self-inspection.

WHEN RETURNING HOME:

- 1) **HEAT IS EXCELLENT BED BUG KILLER**, and nothing is more effective for killing all bed bug life stages than a hot clothes dryer.
- 2) Remove your work clothes as soon as you return home. Your clothes, including shoes, can be tumbled in the dryer on high for 30 minutes and emerge bed bug free. A dryer with a removable shelf is excellent for
- 3) heating items that cannot be tumbled, like backpacks or other supplies. Avoid shirts with buttons and pockets (professional looking, long-sleeved, light colored tee-shirts are advisable).

THE AGENCY MANAGER MAY MAKE A DETERMINATION TO SUSPEND OR REDUCE PATIENTS/CLIENTS WITH BED BUGS HOME VISITS UNTIL TREATED REDUCE THE RISK OF SPREAD TO OTHER PATIENTS/CLIENTS.