

## Resident Preparation for Bed Bug Thermal Remediation

We recommend the following items be removed from your residence prior to thermal remediation. In order to eliminate the transfer of bed bugs, it is very important that you visually inspect each of the items before removing them.

- House plants
- Pets - including fish in aquariums
- Edible items and all drinks (items can be left in your refrigerator, boxed/canned items are fine in your pantry)
- Prescription and over-the-counter drugs
- Personal hygiene items/Make-up
- Wax based items (Candles, crayons, figurines)
- Oil artwork
- Photos – frames need to be left behind
- Vinyl records
- Anything pressurized (spray cans, etc.)
- Flammables (lighters, alcohol, solvents, etc.)
- Wooden and stringed musical instruments - cases need to be left behind
- Family heirlooms and irreplaceable items
- Firearms, ammo and firecrackers
- Items/furniture that contains or is made of wood laminate
- All blinds need to be taken down (plastic, wood or faux)
- Waterbeds need to be emptied
- Inflatable furniture or toys, including air mattresses, need to be deflated

Fans will be used to circulate and direct air during the thermal remediation process. Items that can be blown around or possibly damaged need to be secured prior to treatment. Any loose papers need to be gathered and stored. Breakable/glass objects need to be taken down from shelves and protected. Pictures, paintings, and all wall-mounted items need to be taken off the walls. Diatomaceous Earth or other pest control dusts need to be vacuumed and removed before treatment.

Loose clothing and other fabrics present a place for bed bugs to hide. If you will be taking clothing items with you while your residence is being treated it is imperative that we limit the risk of re-introducing bed bugs when you return to your home. Since bed bugs have a low tolerance for heat, laundry you're clothing in the hottest water cycle and dry them on a cycle that reaches 140 degrees. Take the clothes directly from the dryer and place them in a tightly sealed plastic bag. No other clothes, suitcases or bags should be taken from the

dwelling.

Your home needs to be free from cluttered in every area. Items should be removed from the floor and properly organized. It is a great time to eliminate any unnecessary articles from your home! Please ask a Pest Control Professional if you have any questions about decluttering your home.

Be aware, that to properly treat your furniture, it may be necessary to remove the fabric bottoms of pieces such as your couch or box spring.

Clothing that is left behind to be treated needs to be organized. Drawers can be kept in tack if clothing is loosely packed. Garments left in the closet need to have open air space between them. If necessary, you can use plastic laundry baskets to reduce clutter in these areas by placing clothing in them and leaving the laundry baskets on the floor. In order to ensure maximum airflow throughout the space, we may be required to remove drawers and shift items from their original placement.

Please leave all bedding and linens in your residence. These items are highly likely to be harbouring bed bugs and they need to be treated. Curtains need to be taken down and laundered.

Electronics are not to be removed. Due to the heat that electronics give off, bed bugs often harbour inside of them. Exposing your electronics to temperatures of 140 degrees is not harmful; however, we do ask that you make sure all electronic appliances are set to the off position and disconnected from the wall outlet.