

## Pre-Treatment Preparation for Bedbug Treatment

To ensure effective bedbug eradication, the following steps should be taken by the customer before our technicians arrive:

### 1. Clothing and Bedding

- **Remove and Wash:** Remove all bed linens, pillowcases, mattress covers, curtains, and clothing stored in infested areas. Wash these items on a high-heat cycle (at least 60°C) and then dry on high heat for a minimum of 30 minutes.
- **Bagging Clean Items:** Place cleaned and dried items in large plastic bags, seal them tightly, and store them in a non-affected area until treatment is complete.
- **Do Not Replace Items:** Do not return any cleaned items to the treated areas until after the bedbug treatment has been fully completed.

### 2. Furniture and Storage

- **Empty Storage Units:** Clear out drawers, closets, nightstands, and other storage units near the affected areas. Place items in sealed plastic bags.
- **Declutter:** Remove excess clutter, including papers, magazines, and unnecessary items, to allow for maximum access to all surfaces and crevices.

### 3. Vacuuming

- **Vacuum Thoroughly:** Vacuum all carpets, rugs, floors, and upholstered furniture, focusing on seams, creases, and folds where bedbugs may hide. Dispose of the vacuum bag or clean the vacuum's canister immediately afterward, sealing waste in a plastic bag before disposal.

### 4. Mattress and Bedframe Preparation

- **Strip Beds:** Strip all bedding from mattresses and leave the mattress bare.
- **Disassemble Bedframes:** If possible, disassemble bedframes to allow technicians better access to all crevices.
- **Move Furniture:** Pull beds, sofas, and other furniture at least 18 inches away from the walls to allow technicians access to baseboards and the back of furniture.

### 5. Electronics and Appliances

- **Remove Electronics:** Unplug and cover electronics that may be near the treatment areas, or move them to a safe, non-affected room to avoid contamination.
- **Do Not Use Plastic or Mattress Covers:** Remove any mattress or furniture covers, as these can interfere with treatment.

## During Treatment: What to Expect

### 1. Technician Arrival and Assessment

- **Inspection:** Technicians will inspect the areas to confirm the level of infestation and verify the preparation steps have been followed.
- **Safety Precautions:** Technicians will wear protective gear and ensure safe handling of equipment and treatment products.
- **Treatment Plan Discussion:** A brief discussion will take place to confirm the treatment strategy and answer any questions the client may have.

### 2. Heat Treatment Using Handheld Steamer(If Applicable)

- **Targeted Heating:** The Polti Cimex Eradicator delivers superheated dry steam at up to 180°C directly to infested areas, killing bedbugs and their eggs on contact.
- **Precision Monitoring:** Technicians carefully ensure consistent application to all critical areas, including mattresses, furniture, and cracks, for thorough eradication.
- **Quick Process:** Treatment typically lasts 4-6 hours, depending on the extent of the infestation and size of the space.

### 3. Insecticide Application

- **Spray Application:** Technicians will apply an insecticide spray to baseboards, floor cracks, wall joints, bedframes, mattresses, and other areas where bedbugs are likely to hide.
- **Residual Treatment:** A residual insecticide may be applied to ensure that any bedbugs that hatch after treatment will be eliminated.
- **Safety Considerations:** UK-approved insecticides are used with consideration for pets and residents, who should leave the premises for a minimum of 4 hours after treatment.

### 4. Inspection with TruDetx Bed Bug Rapid Tests(If Applicable)

- **Verification:** TruDetx rapid tests will be used to identify and confirm if areas have bedbug activity, especially in cases where you believe there are bedbugs but there are no signs or proof of this upon inspection.

### 5. Post-Treatment Recommendations

- **Ventilation:** Upon re-entering, ventilate treated areas by opening windows and using fans if necessary.
- **Monitor for Activity:** Keep an eye out for any remaining bedbug activity, though most infestations should be entirely cleared.
- **Avoid Immediate Cleaning:** Avoid vacuuming or washing treated areas for at least 3 weeks to allow the insecticide to remain effective as it may take up to 3 weeks to clear the infestation.

## Follow-Up and Long-Term Prevention

### 1. Monitoring

- **Check Bedding and Furniture:** Inspect beds and upholstered furniture regularly for signs of bedbugs. This is especially crucial in the weeks immediately following treatment.
- **Repeat Treatment:** In cases of heavy infestation, a follow-up treatment may be scheduled within 1-2 weeks to ensure all pests have been eradicated.

### 2. Preventative Tips

- **Minimize Clutter:** Regularly declutter to limit bedbug hiding spots.
- **Encasements:** Use bedbug-proof encasements on mattresses and box springs.

**For any questions or additional support, please contact 4 Seasons Environmental Services Ltd. directly at 07832 229107 or [info@4seasonspestcontrol.co.uk](mailto:info@4seasonspestcontrol.co.uk).**