

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TREATING A DWELLING FOR BED BUGS**

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### **For the treatment of Bud Bugs, you will need:**

Several sturdy trash bags with ties

Vacuum; HEPA vacuum is best

Dust mask

Diatomaceous earth

Mattress and pillow covers/encasements (Use Protect-A-Bed<sup>®</sup> or similar quality)

Available laundry facilities

Interceptors – bed leg traps (1 per leg, Climb up<sup>®</sup> or similar quality)

**Caution:** Be sure that all children and any person with asthma or other respiratory concerns are out of the house for 6 hours during cleaning and dusting. Follow manufacturer's instructions when using Diatomaceous earth.

### **Recommendations:**

- 1) Have a pest professional identify the insect you have collected in plastic bag or vial to be certain that insect is actually a bed bug you are treating for.
- 2) Using sturdy trash bags, bag up all bedding, clothing, and washable materials from all rooms (including bathroom throw rugs, curtains, dish towels). Seal bags. Start in the room with the largest infestation.
- 3) Vacuum all surfaces. A strong suction, HEPA style vacuum is best if available. This includes walls, floor crevices, around heating units, all furniture and mattresses. Be sure to *immediately* discard vacuum cleaner bag in to a sealed trash bag. Discard immediately in to an *outside* trash dumpster.
- 4) Remove box spring dust cover fine mesh on the underside of box spring. Vacuum inside of box spring. Using Diatomaceous earth, dust up into the corners of the box spring where the box spring covering material is gathered. Encase box spring into mattress encasement. Use Protect-A-Bed<sup>®</sup> or similar quality encasement.

- 5) Dust carpet edges and gaps around baseboards. Pull carpet off tack strips around edges of room. Vacuum up bed bugs, dust with a fine layer of Diatomaceous earth and replace carpet back onto tack strips.
- 6) Vacuum mattress thoroughly, paying particular attention to the binding that runs along the edges. Cover mattress with encasement using Protect-A-Bed® or similar quality. If only one encasement is affordable, encase the box spring only.
- 7) Wash all laundry in hot water and dry in a hot dryer. Launder all pillows, plush toys, slippers, sneakers and anything else that can be dried, especially those items stored near or under the bed. Note that foam style pillows cannot be dried in a hot dryer and should be disposed.
- 8) Throw away all used trash bags used to carry the items to be laundered into the outside dumpster. *Do not* place clean clothes in the used bag. Seal clean clothes in bags or bug proof rubber tote containers.
- 9) Wall coverings, pictures, items made of material should also be inspected and treated because bugs could be hiding behind or in these items.
- 10) Install bed bug leg traps under the four legs of the bed. Use Climb up® brand or similar quality traps. Use traps under legs of couch or other upholstered furniture if furniture is contaminated with bed bugs.
- 11) Treat entire apartment/dwelling thoroughly, during one session. Treating over a period of days is less effective and risks re-contaminating treated areas. If bed bugs are seen, bites continue or there is evidence of ongoing bugs in bed bug traps, re-treatment is necessary.