

Bed bugs are difficult to control. Infestations require an integrated pest management plan for control to be successful. The following checklist outlines what we need you to do to prepare for our treatment. Remember that it is important to be thorough with all of these steps.

## **Before Treatment**

- Vacuum all carpets, rugs, couches, chairs, desks, and other furniture. It is important to vacuum all sides, cracks, and crevices. Vacuum baseboards, furniture, bed stands, bed rails, headboards and footboards, bed seams, buttons, edges of the bedding and next to walls. Dispose of the vacuum bag outside in a sealed plastic bag.
- Remove all personal items that cannot be washed from treatment areas and seal in heavy duty 55-gallon plastic bags. This includes stuffed animals, computers, books, and other electronics. Pull out all drawers and turn over furniture.
- □ Wash all bedding, sheets, rugs, and clothes in hot water (120+°F) and dry on high heat.
- Remove items from closets and other storage areas in the room.
- Disassemble beds and frames. Vacuum everything thoroughly.
- Take down pictures and remove outlet covers.
- Caulk all cracks, crevices, and other flaws in walls where bed bugs can hide. This includes sealing holes where pipes, wires, and other things penetrate the wall.
- Caulk and seal cracks and crevices on the exterior too; place fine mesh over any openings to the outside.
- Be prepared to vacate the home for at least two hours following the treatment.

## **Following Treatment**

- ☐ The home may be entered two hours after being treated.
- Let all items sealed in bags sit for a minimum of two weeks. Don't touch the strips inside but don't worry. It's safe to touch the items inside.
- □ Keep mattress and boxspring covers on mattresses for at least a full year.
- Leave any disks or traps left by the technician in place for at least a few months.
- □ Fix any problematic areas mentioned by the technician that could lead to reinfestation.
- ☐ Follow-up visits are typically scheduled for approximately two weeks after the initial visit.