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BED BUG INFORMATION & TREATMENT PREPARATION

What should I know about bed bugs?

- Bed bugs are wingless, oval shaped, flat bodied, opaque, blood feeding insects that are normally whitish in colour but often appear reddish after feeding. They cannot jump or fly but crawl to their desired destination.
- They are approximately 1mm long and become more circular shaped when engorged with the blood they have consumed.
- A female bed bug can lay 200 eggs in her life cycle. Approximately 3-4 per day that hatch after 6-17 days.
- The female bed bug pastes her eggs in cracks and crevices of mattresses and box springs and also lays them in nearby surrounding areas such as baseboards, windowsills, decor items and electrical outlets. Because they are flat they can easily access the most minute of areas.
- Bed bugs can travel up to 30 metres to reach an attractive food source.

Nymph Stage

- After eggs hatch the nymphs will instinctively feed on any available blood food source as soon as possible.

Adult Stage

- An adult life span is between 10 months and 1.5 years in a good environment where food is plentiful and temperature conditions are favourable.
- Bed bugs generally live without feeding for approximately 80-140 days but have also been known to last up to 1.5 years.

Why are bed bugs a problem/nuisance?

- The primary reason bed bugs are a nuisance is because they feed off of human and animal blood. Generally their bites cause redness, itchiness and swelling like a mosquito bite. In turn the bites can cause allergic reactions leading to large itchy welts and in extreme cases infection. Luckily, they are not known to carry blood born diseases so are more of a nuisance than anything.
- They are most active at night and feed during your sleep because they are sensitive to light and attracted to gases we emit while we breathe.
- Due to the fact that bed bugs can travel to any food source, trying to elude them by sleeping in different areas will not work. Anxiety about bites and sleeping conditions can lead to loss of sleep and general restlessness.

Hmmm...how did the bed bugs get here?

- There are many different ways bed bugs may have found your home:
 - They may have been brought home in clothing/luggage from a hotel, resort or hostel.
 - They may have found their way in through second hand furniture or bedding.
 - They may have been transported into the home on clothing or accessories of visitors.
 - They may have travelled from infested neighbouring/attached homes.



What can I do around my home to help prepare for treatment?

- Bag all clothing and bedding materials to be washed in high temperatures and or put outside in extreme cold (at least -5° C) for 2-3 days.
- Empty closets, dresser drawers and remove all decor items from walls and surfaces.
- Move large furniture items from baseboards so they can be fully treated.
- Vacuum and or steam seams of mattresses and box springs, couches and chairs.
- Be prepared for your family and pets to leave the home for three to four hours to allow sufficient time for treatment and subsequent ventilation.

How does Leap Pest Control treat the infestation?

- After proper inspection we can assess the types of procedures to eradicate the problem in your home.
- Generally we steam or vacuum and may also aerosol all mattresses, box springs and large furniture to eliminate eggs and live insects.
- Following that a residual spray treatment will be done to the baseboards, box springs and any cracks and crevices.
- Mattress and box spring covers can be purchased through us in order to engulf the bed which will prevent insects from travelling or laying new eggs in seams and underneath the box spring.
- In extreme cases removal of electrical outlet covers and drilling in baseboards may be necessary to provide full access in order to powder dust the wall voids and prevent bed bugs from travelling throughout structure and to eliminate bugs existing within these areas.

Is the problem resolved? What if I see Bed Bugs after treatment?

- In certain cases where the problem was not a large infestation and addressed immediately the problem will most likely be resolved with the first treatment.
- However, a second treatment is often necessary for larger infestations to eradicate any eggs that were not hatched before the treatment or not exposed to the chemical during initial treatment.
- Generally for 2-3 weeks after treatment, if bed bugs can be seen, a follow-up treatment will be necessary to fully eradicate the infestation.

How will Leap Pest Control take care of my family and home?

- Leap Pest Control has your interests at heart and is committed to working with you in order to resolve the issue surrounding your home and family.
- We use the newest and most innovative equipment for our treatments and also use family and environmentally friendly products.
- We understand that your privacy in this matter is of the utmost importance. We use unmarked vehicles and ensure confidentiality between all parties involved.
- We have many years combined experience and can work together with you to find a solution.

Licensed Experienced Affordable Pest Control

