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HABLAMOS ESPANOL * VALLEY WIDE SERVICE**

Bed Bug Info Sheet

Below you will find a lot of great information to help educate yourself about Bed Bugs. They are a very common pest that we deal with frequently, and together we can help you! Please note:

*We recommend that you are not home during the time of the Bed Bug treatment. Animals should be put outside for the duration of the treatment as well.

*Bed Bug eggs, along with other insects can hatch eggs every two weeks. We recommend a TWO WEEK FOLLOW UP TREATMENT for every Bed Bug treatment that is done.

*Bed Bugs can spread very easily. One common way is from purchasing used furniture. Inspect the furniture at the seams, underneath and under cushions. Do not trust that the person you are buying from will openly admit bed bug issues. Another way is from your friends or relatives that visit frequently. If you have your home treated for bed bugs and are still having issues, they could be spreading from friends or relatives that visit often. Another common way is from your outside pets, most likely a cat that wonder in and out of your home. If you find that this is the case, contact your local Veterinarian to see how they recommend removal of the bed bugs from your pet, and then contact us so we can treat your home for potential eggs, or live Bed Bugs that were brought in the home.

Bed bugs bite with piercing and sucking mouth parts, similar to mosquitoes, and bites result in local swelling and irritation like a bad mosquito bite. Bites can occur in lines or clusters. **Bed bugs do NOT transmit human disease.**

Regular cleaning and inspection of hiding places is the best control strategy for Bed Bugs. Insecticidal treatment of bedding and furniture may be necessary but be very cautious when using insecticides on bedding because of the potential for prolonged exposure to toxic materials while sleeping. After thorough cleaning the bedding, bedroom furniture and other potential hiding places should be treated. **(Our technicians take great care and respect to your belonging. They have been treating bed bugs for many years, and following their recommendations will be very beneficial in preventing any future bed bug problems.)**

If a Bed Bug infestation is found, the following steps can be used to eliminate it. First, repair any loose wall coverings or cracks where bed bugs can hide. Second, remove bed sheets/ mattress covers and inspect and vacuum the mattress surface and seams. If soiled with bed bug droppings you should thoroughly clean the mattress (see below). Third, wash bedding in hot water. Last, treat areas where bed bugs may hide.

Mattress cleaning – Ordinary upholstery shampoo can be used to clean a mattress, and hand-held steam cleaners can be used to kill all stages of bed bugs. Follow directions exactly and be very careful not to get padding inside of the mattress wet. There is no need to discard a bed bug –soiled mattress if it can be cleaned.

Treating Hiding Places – First, clean under and around bedroom furniture especially areas that seldom get cleaned. We will apply a *very light application*

to mattress seams, bed frame, crevices, and any cracks that cannot be repaired. (Caulk baseboard cracks if you can. Use a wet cloth to remove any excess dust that may be around the windowsill or baseboards so you can thoroughly check for cracks that bed bugs may be hiding in.)

Wash in hot water and heat dry- Place belongings in plastic garbage bags for the mean time. When you can, use a normal wash setting in Warm/ HOT water and HEAT dry. This should be sufficient to “de-bug” anything that can be machine washed. Most insects, including bed bugs, will succumb to temperatures in excess of 140 degrees F. Dry cleaning is another but more expensive option. But what about things that can't be exposed to hot water, heated dryer air or to dry cleaning chemicals?

Freezing is the next best option - Place small items that can withstand freezing temperatures in sealed plastic bags and place them in an ordinary home freezer for a couple of days. This will kill all stages of bed bugs. Larger items like suitcases can be thoroughly cleaned and treated as you would a room, then places in storage away from where people sleep.