



## **Keys to success – Preparing your home:**

A successful heat treatment is a partnership between the homeowner and Signature Pest Control LLC. Our goal is to eliminate the bed bugs and their eggs. This goal is more likely to be reached if you follow this guide completely to help in the preparation. ***If this guide is not followed, or treatment area is not prepared, there may be additional charges.***

\*Due to the need to go through all items within the treatment zone. It is highly recommended that any items that are of no value should be thrown away prior to treatment. This will speed up the process and give us time to focus on more important items. All areas should be fully vacuumed, and the vacuum bag emptied (bagless) or thrown away. Pay special attention to baseboards, and behind furniture.

### **Items that must be removed or protected:**

- Pets – including fish in aquariums.
- House plants
- Fresh food – Fruits, vegetables, etc.
- Food that melts – Chocolate, candy, etc.
- Prescriptions and over the counter medications.
- Make-up
- Wax based items – Candles, wax figurines, and fruit, lipstick, crayons, pens, markers, etc.
- Anything pressurized – Spray cans, fire extinguishers, oxygen bottles, etc.
- Flammables – Lighters, lamp fuel, alcohol, solvents, perfumes, etc.
- All Firearms and ammunition.
- Wooden and stringed musical instruments – leave the cases.
- Family heirlooms and irreplaceable items should be inspected, and a determination made as to whether they should be treated.

Some of the smaller items can be stored in the refrigerator during the treatment. Larger items can be left by the door for inspection. It will be determined if any of these items need to be treated for bed bugs.

## **Clothing:**

The bed bug will seek shelter on and within clothing. To avoid reintroducing bed bugs, any clothing removed from the space before heat treatment must be fully laundered before being returned to the treated areas.

- Washing using the hottest water cycle and drying using the hottest dryer setting for a minimum of 20 minutes.
- Avoid contaminating the freshly washed clothing. **DO NOT** return the clean clothing to the container (bag, basket, etc.) it was transported in unless that container was also treated.
- **DO NOT** place clothing in plastic bags.
- Clothing in drawers can be left in place. Clothing in drawers will be removed during treatment and **WILL NOT** be returned to its original place.
- It may be necessary to remove the drawers from dressers to help with the air movement.
- Clothing on hangers may be left in closets if the space between the items is large enough to allow the heated air to circulate. Arrange hanging items to open up air space between them. If no space is left for air movement, items will be removed.

## **Larger fabric items – Linens, towels, blankets, etc.**

These items should be left in the area being heated, as they are likely to shelter bed bugs.

- **DO NOT** place these items in plastic bags.

## **Papers, smaller items etc.**

A thermal treatment requires moving large amounts of air to be successful. Therefore, all items that can be blown around and possibly damaged need to be protected.

- Loose papers need to be gathered and boxed. Any checks, or cash should be removed from the treatment area.
- Glass items, nick-knacks etc. will need to be secured. **DO NOT** leave breakable items on shelves or other areas where damage could occur. If items are not secured Signature Pest Control is not liable for any damage that may occur.
- Pictures, paintings, posters, and other wall-mounted items will need to be taken down and leaned against the wall.

## **Electronics – Televisions, computers, video players, stereos, etc.**

Electronics are a hiding place for bed bugs: **DO NOT** remove electronics from areas being heated.

- VHS and Cassette tapes **Must** be inspected and removed.
- All electronics will need to be on and in working order prior to treatment (unless noted), then switched to the off position after inspection.
- All electronics will be unplugged from the wall during treatment.

### **Beds and frames:**

- Leave beds as is. We do not want you to disturb any bed bug population.

### **Waterbeds and airbeds.**

- Waterbeds will need to be drained. If the waterbed is not drained, it will prevent the frame from reaching lethal temperatures.
- Airbeds will need to be deflated to avoid damage.
- Select Comfort® type airbeds with an electronic pump must be deflated and unplugged from the wall outlet.

### **Post – Treatment:**

- The temperatures will be elevated when you return. Higher temperatures are a result of the Thermal remediation process, and a cool down period will be needed. Please keep all children away from metal objects until they are fully cooled to prevent injury.
- You may open windows or turn on air conditioning to aid in cooling.
- During the heat treatment, most of your things will be shifted or moved to get an even heat distribution. They **WILL NOT** be returned exactly where they were before the treatment.
- **\*Treatment area will be completely disorganized\*.**
- Any damage to your possessions must be brought to Signature Pest Control's attention as soon as damage is confirmed.(See contract)

**Signature Pest Control is not liable for any damage as a result of not following this guide.**

**With your cooperation, we will be able to successfully eliminate this serious and challenging pest from your home. We thank you in advance for your cooperation!**