



Moving With Bed Bugs

How to Move and Leave Bed Bugs Behind

If at all possible get rid of bed bugs before you move. Moving without taking the proper precautions will **NOT** eliminate your infestation and could spread it to your new location. Be sure to notify your property manager that there were bed bugs in the house or apartment you are leaving so that they can have it treated before a new tenant moves in. Educate yourself about bed bugs to stop an infestation before it becomes a problem. It is always best to contact a pest control specialist for services and advice when moving with bed bugs.

Packing:

- Use new packing material when possible. If you use old boxes carefully inspect them for bed bugs first.
- Wash and dry all clothing on the hottest setting and immediately seal them in a plastic bag and label them "Clean."
- Repeat the above step for all linens and plush items like pillows or stuffed animals.
- Double bag anything that cannot be washed right away.
- Everything that cannot be washed (electronics, books, picture frames, etc.) should be checked for bed bugs and placed in plastic bags. Your pest control specialist should be able to tell you the best way to eliminate bed bugs on these items.
- Purchase bed bug proof mattress and box spring encasements for each bed you will be taking with you. Install these on the day you move.
- If you throw away any infested items, bag them and clearly label the "Bed Bugs" and if possible destroy them so that no one will pull them out of the dumpster and infest their home.

Moving Day:

- If you hire a company be sure to ask how often they check their equipment for bed bugs.
- Ensure any moving blankets are properly laundered.
- Inspect any rented moving vehicles for signs of infestation prior to placing your items inside.
- All furniture should be emptied and sanitized. If you suspect it has been infested have it treated by a licensed pest control specialist prior to moving it into your new home.
- Vacuum the floors well. After vacuuming seal the vacuum bag in another bag and dispose of it in an outside garbage container.
- Bathe all pets and keep them outside after bathing so that they don't pick up more bed bugs before you leave.
- Have each person shower and change into clean clothing and shoes and bag up the dirty (possibly infested) clothing to be laundered.

Unpacking:

- Check your new home for signs of infestation prior to move in (preferably prior to spending any money on it).
- Before placing your belongings in new home make sure they are bed bug free or else you will spread the infestation.
- Launder any items not labeled clean.
- Inspect any new or used furniture you acquire carefully before bringing it into your home.
- If you place any items in storage be sure to ask your storage facility how often they check for bed bugs. Try to store items in sealable plastic containers or bags.