

PROPER DISPOSAL OF BED BUG INFESTED HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

If you have bed bugs, have your home inspected and treated by a pest management professional before you decide to dispose of anything. (See Preventing and Getting Rid of Bed Bugs Safely). Most times, clothing, bedding and furniture from a home with a bed bug problem can be treated and do not need to be thrown away. If you decide to dispose of items, they should be carefully sealed in a plastic bag or container first so the bed bugs don't spread.

SEALING HOUSEHOLD GOODS FOR DISPOSAL

- Items should be enclosed in heavy-duty plastic sheeting or plastic bags before removing them.
- All plastic bags and sheeting should be taped so there are no openings. Use duct or box tape.
- Carefully handle all sealed infested items when disposing of them to prevent damage to the wrapping.
- If possible, place the infested items in a secure garbage container that seals tightly so that bedbugs can't escape.

DISPOSAL OF SEALED ITEMS

➤ SMALLER ITEMS

- Place small items such as clothes, bed linens, toys, throw rugs, shoes and other personal belongings in a heavy-duty trash bag and use tape to seal the bag so that bedbugs can't escape.
- Attach a sign on the bags clearly stating, "BED BUG INFESTED - DO NOT TAKE" to discourage other people from taking infested items to their homes.
- Infested items to be discarded should be placed on the street curb close to the time they will be collected by the Sanitation Department.

➤ MATTRESS, BOX SPRINGS AND OTHER LARGE FURNITURE

- By law, all mattresses and box springs must be encased in a sealed plastic bag before they can be discarded.
- Cut or deface mattresses, bed frames and upholstered furniture to discourage someone from taking them into their home.
- Before disposal, wrap the item in heavy-duty plastic and securely seal it with duct tape. Do this in the room where the item was stored so that bed bugs do not spread throughout the house.
- Attach a sign to the furniture clearly stating, "BED BUG INFESTED - DO NOT TAKE" to discourage other people from taking infested furniture to their homes.
- Place the items on the curb close to the time the trash is collected by the Sanitation Department.
- If you have used a vacuum cleaner, discard the bag, or empty the receptacle in a sealed plastic bag. All washable parts of the vacuum cleaner should be thoroughly cleaned in hot water and detergent.
- Infested items for disposal shouldn't be left with the regular building trash. Apartment buildings and multi-family houses should have a designated area for temporary storage of encased, bed bug infested items that are awaiting disposal.
- Residents of infested apartments should notify and work with the building management to remove and dispose of infested items.
- Don't donate items from an infested home.

➤ GETTING NEW THINGS FOR YOUR HOME

- Your home should be bed bug free before you buy new furniture or other items.