

JACKSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Bed Bugs are very hard to control. Therefore, the Jackson County Health Department recommends that you follow the steps below to help assure the success of any bed bug treatment. These steps must be completed prior to an inspection and or treatment to ensure the best results.

BEDROOMS

- All sheets, bedding materials and pillows (except the bottom sheet) should be removed from the beds and sealed in plastic trash bags in preparation of cleaning (see next step). This helps to prevent spreading bed bugs to other rooms.
- Sheets, pillows and clothes stored under the bed (or in a dresser harboring bed bugs) can be washed in soap and hot water. Bed Spreads, covers and other items that cannot be washed should be dried in the dryer at a high temperature for 30 minutes. (Please read the washing instructions on clothing items to ensure they will not be damaged)
- Clothes must be removed from closets and drawers, placed in bags and washed and/or dried at a high temperature in clothes dryer for 30 minutes.
- Drapes (if applicable) should be bagged before removing from an infested room. Follow the previous drying requirements.
- Please remove all items from the nightstand and under the bed and keep them in plastic bags for two weeks before putting back on the nightstand or under the bed.

OTHER ROOMS

- Upholstered furniture must be thoroughly vacuumed for inspection and possible treatment. Any blankets, throw pillows, etc should be bagged and dried at a high temperature for at least 30 minutes.
- Vacuum carpeting and floor thoroughly, especially along the baseboards with a crack and crevice attachment.
- Dispose of the vacuum bag immediately in a sealed plastic bag in an outdoor trash receptacle.

PETS

- Aquariums should have the air pump disconnected and the top covered by a damp towel. Saltwater tanks may need to be removed from the premises as the air pump cannot be disconnected.
- Birds, dogs, cats and other pets should be taken to another location until after the treatment has had time to dry.

AFTER THE SERVICE

- Stay out of the space for a period of time as directed by the pest control person.

Bed bug can be hard to get rid of, but it can be done by:

- Conducting regular inspections of beds, bedding or other sleeping areas of the home and/or apartment.
- Reducing clutter and keep clothes, blankets, soft toy or other soft cloth type items off the floor
- Keeping clothes either hung up or in a dresser, this will help eliminate places for bed bugs to hide.

By following the steps above and keeping clutter down it will be easier to control and or eliminate a bed bug infestation.