



POST-BED BUG TREATMENT ACTIVITIES

Follow your pest management professional's advice to re-enter your home after treatment. The following guidelines may assist you in post-treatment:

- Vacuum flooring and furniture thoroughly before moving furniture back in place.
- Follow the advice of your pest management professional before washing treated surfaces with soap and water or other cleaning materials (washing surfaces may diminish treatment).
- Launder bedding, clothing, and washable toys as advised by pest management professional.
- Bed bugs don't discriminate based on someone's social status or the cleanliness of their home; however, clutter can make it much more difficult to control or eliminate a bed bug infestation. Now is a good time to address home clutter issues.

- It is not necessary to discard mattresses and box springs. After your dwelling has been treated for bed bugs, place laboratory-tested, bite-proof encasements on your mattress and box springs (they also have bed bug couch encasements). Encasements are zippered enclosures that cover bed components. Encasing both mattress and box spring eliminates the need to discard bedding. Leave encasements on for at least one year or follow manufacturer recommendations. If bed bugs were not completely eliminated by the initial treatment, bed bugs are trapped inside the encasements and prevent bed bugs from feeding while you sleep.



- Monitor to assess for presence of bed bugs. A monitor gets in the bug's pathway. Monitoring is most effective in a room where people regularly sleep. A trap can be created by applying double-sided tape or purchasing an interceptor device. This will either trap the bugs or show their fecal matter. If you find bed bugs, cast



skins, or have any questions or concerns about treatment, you should contact your Pest Management Professional.



Simple repairs reduce the number of places bed bugs can hide. **If you are a tenant do not make repairs on your own. Discuss possible repairs with your landlord or building manager.** Simple repairs for the sleeping area include:

- ✓ Caulk with silicone sealant moldings and joints around the room perimeter (floor, doors, cabinets, and windows).
- ✓ Seal openings around pipes or other structures that come through walls, floors and ceilings.
- ✓ Repair peeling wallpaper.
- ✓ Repair cracks in walls or floors.
- ✓ Repair or replace damaged interior doors.

**Polk County Health Department
Polk County Bed Bug Task Force**

