



How to Move and Leave Bed Bugs Behind

Once bed bugs have been confirmed in the living area of an individual or family, there may be good reason to move them to a different area or apartment while the infested one is treated. However bed bugs may be transferred with personal belongings, causing more trouble in the new living space. Some suggestions for moving to a new location without bringing bed bugs are as follows:

- Place **all** belongings in clear plastic bags that are sealed tightly. Sort items by type (clothes, towels, sheets and blankets) and keep things that are known to be infested away from clean items.
- Have each individual shower and change into clean clothing and shoes and bag up the current (possibly infested) clothes for laundering.
- Educate the resident about protecting themselves from bed bugs and what to look for using fact sheets from this manual.
- Before personal belongings can be accessed in the new home, they **MUST** be bed bug free, or the process will be repeated.
- Provide or obtain access to laundry.
- Follow all laundering and cleaning steps for personal belongings.
- Keep items that cannot be sanitized inside clear plastic bags (electronics, appliances, books, etc.) and ask a professional pest manager how these items should be treated. Aerosol pesticides may be recommended for a faster solution. Storage of these items for one year is a non-toxic choice, but may be difficult due to space or needs. If items are kept warm, storage time is reduced.
- Provide vinyl or bed bug proof covered mattresses for the beds of each member of the household. Also cover box springs if they are present.
- Provide contact information for a person who will respond to bed bug complaints, in case bed bugs show up again.
- Whether you move permanently or temporarily, leave furniture behind if possible to allow it to be treated. Treat furniture before moving it. Take with you as few items as possible at first.
- Pets must be relocated during treatment. Leave behind their bedding and cages, unless these items can be thoroughly washed.