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Bed Bugs: Recommendations Between Services O3E

EXPECTATIONS OF SERVICE

KEY POINTS

- Bed bugs are likely to continue to be seen between visits but should get less with each visit
- It is not uncommon to see an increase in bed bug activity a few days following treatment
- Service calls for bed bugs should not be placed between scheduled visits
- There are actions that you can take to deal with the bed bugs that are seen between services

WHY WILL YOU CONTINUE TO SEE BED BUGS?

You are very likely to continue seeing bed bugs following the initial treatment. In fact, for a few days after the initial service, you may experience an increase in activity and see more bugs than you did before the treatment but with each service you should see fewer and fewer bugs. Barring any obstacles to treatment, the bed bug infestation in your home should be eliminated by the 4th visit or sooner.

Reasons why you may still see bed bugs after our treatments are that bed bugs are capable of getting into many environments that are inaccessible for treatment. For example some locations they may be located are under carpeting, between or beneath floor boards, behind baseboards and crown molding, beneath window frames or door frames. They also do not feed every day (in fact they typically feed once every week) and thus a bed bug could be between meals when treatment is applied and thus not come into contact with the treatment. The extent to which populations can be reduced and the speed in which populations can be reduced is dependent on a variety of factors. Items stored underneath beds, closets that are filled, stacks of papers, boxes filled with items, are a few examples of the type of conditions where we can not properly inspect and apply pesticides that will allow these insects to survive for longer periods of time. Repeat visits will be necessary to achieve complete elimination of the bed bug infestation.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO WHEN YOU SEE BED BUGS?

You should not apply pesticides on your own to eliminate bed bugs that are seen between service visits. Bed bugs that are seen between services should either be physically killed or removed from the environment. There are several ways in which this can be done.

- Vacuum cleaners can be used to remove live bed bugs. Immediately after vacuuming, the vacuum bag should be removed, sealed in a plastic bag and thrown away outside in a garbage receptacle. Please be sure to indicate to the service technician where your vacuum is being stored so that the area can be properly inspected for the presence of bed bugs.
- Bed bugs can be physically killed by capturing them in a tissue, crushing them, and then discarding them.
- Records can be kept indicating where bed bugs were seen between visits. This additional information can be used to help better understand changes in bed bug activity between scheduled pest control visits.

Remember that over-the-counter Pesticide Products are not recommended for use on bed bugs that are seen between visits. Pesticides are already being applied by a professional and more pesticides are not needed between visits. In addition, some of the pesticides applied by the consumer may interfere with other control efforts.

OTHER RECOMENDATIONS

- Bed linens should be laundered in hot water cycle (140° F or hotter).
- Beds should be pulled away from the wall so the bed and wall do not contact each other.
- Cluttered/crowded conditions should be eliminated as much as possible (piles of clothing, boxes filled with personal items, crowded closets etc.). The more crowded and/or cluttered the more difficult to achieve control.
- No items should be stored underneath beds.
- Any live bed bugs that are seen should be killed or removed (see recommendations above).
- DO NOT remove the mattress or box spring encasements for any reason!