

Greater London Pest Liaison Group
Good Practice Guide



Photo Courtesy R Naylor



Beating Bedbugs

Preparing your
Home for Bedbug
Treatments



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Preparing your home for bedbug treatment

It is very important that you carry out all the preparation below, before the pest control officer arrives.

If your premises have not been properly prepared by the time the officer arrives, then the premises will not be treated at that time.



1. Before the pest control officer arrives, please:

- **Do not move anything out of the rooms to be treated, apart from rubbish.**
- Move all beds, furniture and other items away from the walls.
- Remove head-boards, and all items from under the bed.
- Remove bedding from the beds, and contents of drawers and cupboards, place in bin liners, and close tightly.
- Remove pictures, posters, mirrors etc from walls.
- Unplug all non-essential electrical items within the treated rooms.
- Thoroughly vacuum clean the bedrooms, and place the waste in an **outside** bin. Similarly discard any other rubbish.
- It is not normally necessary to throw away infested items. These can often be treated. The pest control officer will advise you on this.

2. Immediately before treatment

- Turn off any aquarium pumps, and cover the tank.
- Residents and pets must move to an untreated room. If all rooms are treated, then leave the premises for two to three hours.

3. After treatment

- Treated areas may be safely re-entered when the spray is dry, after about two to three hours. Then air the rooms for an hour.
- Turn on aquaria pumps and other electrical items, once the premises has been aired.
- Launder all linen and clothing from the treated rooms, and then replace in rooms (see 'Laundry' below).
- Do not vacuum clean the treated rooms for at least two weeks.
- You should continue to sleep in your bed as normal. If you wish to get a new bed, do not do so until the infestation is completely eradicated.
- A few new bites may occur for up to two weeks after treatment.

4. Subsequent treatments

- More than 1 treatment may be necessary for full eradication. The pest control officer will tell you what is required.

5. Laundry

- Before the clothing and linen is replaced in the treated rooms, it should be either:
 - Machine washed at a 'Hot' (60°C) setting;
 - Or tumble dried at a 'Hot' setting for 30 minutes;
 - Or placed in a good deep freezer for at least three days;
 - Or dry cleaned.
- Look at the garment labels for laundry advice.
- Bin liners that have been used to hold clothing etc. before washing, should be placed in a waste bin outside the home.



Do you need further information?

For further advice on bedbug control contact your local authority Environmental Health Department.

For more information on bedbugs, see the GLPLG's good practice guides on:

- *Information for Residents;*
- *Information for Landlords & Property Managers.*

What is the Greater London Pest Liaison Group?

The Greater London Pest Liaison Group is a voluntary Group comprising members from within the Pest Control Departments of a number of Local Authorities from within Greater London. The objective of the Group is to maintain high standards of pest control and to disseminate sound technical information.

This document has been prepared by the Greater London Pest Liaison Group and is intended for use by residents whose homes are scheduled for bedbug treatment. Whilst it has been produced with great care, the publishers cannot accept any liability for inaccuracies or errors herein.

