

# **EARL'S PEST CONTROL**

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## **BED BUGS AFTER CARE LETTER**

Thank you for allowing Earls Pest Control to treat your property for Bed Bugs. It is our goal to ensure that you and your family reside in the highest quality living environment possible. Due to the fact that this pest is not a door pest, you as a tenant/resident play a very important role in preventing and controlling bed bugs.

While personal cleanliness and housekeeping remain an imperative tool, the presence of a bed bug is not always related to personal cleanliness. To minimize an infestation, good housekeeping will help identify the problem early on to limit its rapid spread and growth.

Bed Bugs carry a variety of problems, things such as resistance to alternate pesticides, having the ability to hide underneath furniture and in appliances, will travel to alternate places of the house very quickly and continue to be one of the most impossible bugs to get rid of without compliance from the tenant/customer.

Because Bed Bugs can reproduce so quickly, it is very important to have early identifications of problems and correct those problems as needed.

Earls Pest Control has created this informational so that we can best help and serve our customers by giving you the proper information. If you have gotten this handout, it is typically based upon follow up visits needed due to non-compliance of preparation, large infestations or sanitation corrections that may be needed.

This information should be followed to the best of your ability. Remember, if you cannot correct some of the following items, and/or have questions, please do not hesitate to call us. This is a wide variety of information and some of these items may not apply to your particular situation.

Most living situations are similar in all households. However, over time situations may change, such as house guests, new or used furniture purchases, travel, and common household practices. Once we have this bug eliminated from the structure, we are going to try to describe in this letter ways to help avoid re-infestations within the structure.

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## LIVING SITUATION / PREVENTION

- One of the primary ways that this “hitchhiking” bug comes into a living structure is being brought in on things such as furniture of any kind, guests or even through travel practices. We must assume if there is a history of any or all of these three things, that that is how the problem originated.
- Things such as visiting relatives or friends should be looked upon as a potential vehicle into the structure. Therefore, governing how these guests enter is key to preventing a reoccurrence.
- Laundering all clothing that comes into the structure must be done as even clean clothing can harbor bed bugs.
- Locating the suitcases to an area such as the garage or outside until that suitcase, the vehicle to the bed bug can be rendered bed bug free. Many customers have bought steaming devices to help ensure and kill potential problems with luggage. This is not a bad idea, however even that may not be 100% successful when having guests.
- Upon most infestations, during the treatment plan, we have initially described and given instructions on how to reduce clutter, minimize harborage areas as well as how to avoid any re-infestations.
- Early Detection such as biting or sightings must be reported to Earls. Even two to three months after treatments are rendered.
- Taking household items into your environment, such as furniture, clothing, lamps, etc....could reinfest the house even if looks clear.
- Be wary of all new items brought into the environment whether as a gift or a purchase. All furniture bought, especially second hand furniture should be inspected. Especially beds and mattresses. Never accept any item that may have signs of bed bugs.
- Bed bugs like dark, concealed places. Examples of this are under the bed, in the closets including in your laundry, piles of clothes and shoes, as well as behind picture frames, in electronics and inside drawers. Removing clutter from your space will reduce harborage and aid in housekeeping
- Vacuuming and dusting regularly is a great identification and prevention tool you should frequently use. Be sure to use a brush attachment when vacuuming furniture legs, headboard and in or around the nightstand. Focusing on these areas in the bedroom and being extremely thorough will also aid in detecting any signs of bed bugs.
- After visits to or from friends and families homes, if used public transportation, or went to a theatre, check backpacks, shoes and clothing.
- Lastly, should you travel and stay at a hotel or another home, be sure to leave your luggage in the garage or outside and inspect the clothing, shoes and belongings for any signs, including the luggage itself. Washing all laundry immediately, even if unworn or not dirty is also a good idea.
- Finally, after a bed bug treatment has been rendered, signs of bed bugs will remain. Things such as stains on the walls, bedding and baseboards will be seen, as well as dead bed bugs. Cleaning those areas to the best of your ability will eliminate them from being misidentified as new problems. We suggest cleaning up all dead bed bugs in the carpet areas and walls, as well as any other evidence that may be left by the bug. When it comes to vacuuming, a professional cleaner may help ensure an effective post treatment

We appreciate your cooperation in this treatment plan. We know it's not easy for most households to ensure 100%, however we expect to correct listed items on sanitation and after care report to the best of your ability immediately. Tenant cooperation and participation is imperative to a successful treatment plan

Thank you in advance,

Earls Pest Control  
1-800-310-2900