

BED BUG ACTION PLAN FOR HOME HEALTH

POLICY

Agency will provide education/training to home care staff to prepare them for working in environment with bed bugs.

Agency staff will follow guidelines for identifying and managing bed bug infestations.

PURPOSE

To identify presence of bed bugs and actions to take to prevent infestation.

To assist clients to contact authorities to remove bedbugs from the home or apartment building.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. First remember that bedbugs are not known to cause disease. They are a nuisance and actions can be taken to remove them.
2. Seeing bed bug evidence in place will help employees to recognize the signs of bed bug infestation in someone's home, even if they do not see live bugs.

PREPARING FOR HOME VISITS

1. Always wear simple clothing when visiting a client's home.
2. Avoid shirts with buttons and pockets (professional looking, long-sleeved, light colored tee-shirts are advisable).
3. Avoid cargo pants or pants with cuffs.
4. Simple shoes that can be thrown in a hot dryer, and that have minimal tread are also recommended.
5. Do not accessorize with anything, particularly scarves, jewelry or handbags.

AFTER YOU ARRIVE:

1. Wear protective booties at all times if bed bugs are suspected or at least when you are uncertain about the presence of an infestation in the client's home.
2. An isolation gown can be worn if you are entering a home where you know there is a severe infestation. An isolation gown should also be considered if you know that you will be moving or carrying items, like a wheelchair from an infested home. An isolation gown should also be worn if you are physically moving people or animals from an infested home.
3. Do not sit on upholstered furniture or the bed. Take a quick look in the cracks of hard chairs before sitting down.
4. Carry only those items with you that are essential to the home visit. Leave everything else in the car.
5. A plastic clipboard can be used to hold your paperwork. A fanny pack can be used to hold your wallet, personal items, spare gloves and booties.

6. Avoid placing anything on upholstered furniture, bedding, or on carpeted floors.

IF BED BUGS ARE DISCOVERED IN THE HOME DURING THE VISIT, REMAIN CALM!

1. Call your supervisor and report the sighting.
2. When you return to your vehicle, remove your booties immediately and seal them in a plastic bag. Dispose of the bag before you get in the car.
3. If you were wearing an isolation gown remove it by turning it inside out to trap any bed bugs inside.
4. Place the suit in a sealed plastic bag and dispose of it before you get in the vehicle.
5. Check your clothing (the back of your pants, tread of your shoes, shoe laces, socks, cuffs and collar).
6. If you find an insect on yourself (bed bug or cockroach), don't freak out. Take a picture of the bug to show your supervisor. Try to have the bug on a white background so it can be easily seen. Use a wet wipe to wipe down the surrounding area, paying attention to seams, buttons and other bed bug hiding places. Wipe downs are not necessary if you do not find any bugs during your self-inspection.

IF YOU ARE REPEATEDLY VISITING INFESTED HOMES:

1. Protect yourself and other clients by always wearing booties and an isolation gown and using a bed bug containment kit. Suggested items for the kit include:
 - a. A portable, hard surface chair or stool.
 - b. A fanny pack for holding personal items like your identification, cell phone, additional booties or gloves.
 - c. A change of clothes and shoes (kept in your vehicle).
 - d. A plastic storage container with a sealed lid that is large enough to contain the items listed below or items that you might suspect to be infested.
 - i. Protective booties and isolation gowns
 - ii. Disposable gloves
 - iii. A roll of duct tape (light colored)
 - iv. Plastic garbage bags
 - v. Flashlight
 - vi. Narrow banded spatula (for crushing bed bugs)
 - vii. A fresh container of wet wipes (i.e. Wet Ones antibacterial)

WHEN RETURNING HOME:

1. **HEAT IS EXCELLENT BED BUG KILLER**, and nothing is more effective for killing all bed bug life stages than a hot clothes dryer.

2. Remove your work clothes as soon as you return home. Your clothes, including shoes, can be tumbled in the dryer on high for 30 minutes and emerge bed bug free. A dryer with a removable shelf is excellent for
3. heating items that cannot be tumbled, like backpacks or other supplies. Avoid shirts with buttons and pockets (professional looking, long-sleeved, light colored tee-shirts are advisable).

IF STAFF MEMBER CONTRACTS BED BUGS:

1. Notify nursing supervisor of the source.
2. Remove all clothing before entering the home if possible (or in the bathroom if not).
3. Immediately place your clothing in sealed plastic bags. Get into the shower.
4. After showering, collect your sealed items and place them in the washer with hot soapy water. Place shoes in a hot dryer for 30 minutes. Dry your clothes on high heat.

THE AGENCY CLINICAL MANAGER MAY MAKE A DETERMINATION TO SUSPEND OR REDUCE PATIENTS WITH BED BUGS HOME VISITS UNTIL TREATED REDUCE THE RISK OF SPREAD TO OTHER PATIENTS.

Bed Bugs

QUICK STATS:



Color:
Mahogany to red-brown



Shape:
Flat, broad oval when unfed; swollen and elongated when fed



Size:
1/4 inch long



Region:
Found throughout the U.S. and the world



Snapshot of the appearance and distribution of bed bugs