

Vikane®

CONSIDERATIONS WHEN FUMIGATING FOR BED BUGS

SPECIALTY GAS FUMIGANT

Considerations When Fumigating for Bed Bugs

1. Give an adult occupant of the residence to be fumigated a bed bug fact sheet and checklist on how to pack to leave bed bugs behind. See example on the reverse side of this sheet.
2. For multi-unit dwellings (apartments, condominiums, dormitories), consider the following:
 - **Require at least one adult occupant from each unit to attend group meeting(s)** to explain preparation procedures and answer questions. Have attendees sign a check-in sheet at each meeting.
 - **Set-up checkpoints** manned by authorized personnel to screen occupants as they are leaving before the fumigation and returning after the fumigation. The screenings are necessary to ensure bed bug infested items are not brought back into the dwelling as occupants return after the fumigation.
3. **Conduct containerized fumigation of occupant essential personal use items prior to the residential fumigation.** These are items residents must take with them while they vacate the residence during the fumigation, but which they are unable to disinfect for bed bugs. These items include suitcases, backpacks, clothing, stuffed toys, blankets, pet bedding, and personal mobility devices (such as baby strollers, child car seats, wheelchairs, and walkers).
4. Add clauses in the fumigation contract that are specific for bed bug control. Clauses to consider could include responsibilities for reinfestation and exclusions for medical expenses and repair or replacement of items due to infestation of bed bugs. Consult NPMA or your state pest management associations for further guidance.
5. Monitor bed bug fumigations using a Fumiscope, SF-ReportIR or similar device to document and confirm sufficient dosage (1.9X the drywood termite dosage) is accumulated to kill bed bugs.
6. Warm-blooded pets including birds can serve as important hosts, and pet cages and bedding can be sources of infestation. The American Veterinary Medical Association (www.avma.org) has information on their website for pet owners about bed bugs.



Packing Checklist — How to Leave the Bed Bugs Behind

- Bring as few items as possible when leaving the residence for the fumigation.** Remember, bed bugs hitchhiking in suitcases, backpacks, boxes, clothing, bedding and pest cages is a common way for these insects to be introduced into buildings. Bed bugs have been found infesting small electronic devices, such as cell phones and tablet PCs.
- For all fabric items that will be taken out of the residence before the fumigation, wash in hot (140° F) water in clothes washer, dry in tumble clothes dryer set on “hot” setting for 30 minutes, or dry clean items before returning them to the fumigated residence.** Fabric items include clothing, blankets, pillows, stuffed toys, and pet bedding. Washing or drying items in high temperatures or dry cleaning is required to kill all life stages, including eggs, of bed bugs.
- Do not use boxes, purses, suitcases, backpacks, gym bags, or any similar items from the infested residence to pack belongings.** These items should remain in the residence to be fumigated. Pack belongings needed during the fumigation in light colored or clear plastic bags or plastic containers, such as sweater boxes or new luggage not previously stored in the infested residence.
- Do not place washed or packed items on furniture (beds, sofas, dressers, tables, etc.) or flooring (carpets or rugs) that may be infested with bed bugs.** Immediately remove packed items from the infested residence or place them on a clean, hard surface (kitchen or bathroom floor, in a bath tub or shower) until they can be removed from the residence.
- Mattresses and pillow completely enveloped in waterproof coverings can be fumigated if the waterproof covering can be opened or contain built-in vents designed to permit air passage.** Otherwise, mattresses and pillows completely enveloped in waterproof coverings must be removed prior to fumigation. It is advised that any removed mattress or pillow be discarded, or be covered by a bed bug encasement before being returned to the residence after fumigation. (Waterbeds can be fumigated.)
- Pet cages, pet bedding, fabric toys, clothing, retractable leashes and other pet items which can harbor bed bugs should be fumigated.** Pet cages with any small gaps, seams, or hollow spaces that could harbor bed bugs should be left in the residence to be fumigated. Food in cages should be removed prior to the fumigation. The pets should be transferred to new travel cages or housing known not to be infested with bed bugs to remove them from the residence prior to the fumigation. Pet bedding, fabric toys, and clothing should not be removed from the residence before the fumigation unless these items can be washed, dried, or dry cleaned as described above.
- Personal mobility devices, such as wheelchairs, walker, baby strollers, child car seats, and cars, can be infested with bed bugs and should be fumigated.** These items can be fumigated as part of the residential fumigation if absolutely needed to vacate the residence during its fumigation. Talk to your pest control professional to coordinate treatment of these items.



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