



Product Update June 2007 Bed Bug Control with Ficam® & K-Othrine®

Bed bugs are probably the oldest insect pest associated with human misery. Although they have never been associated with transmitting disease to humans their dependent parasitism of man has been a scourge since history began. Within recent years, bed bugs have returned with a vengeance. For many PCO's, bed bugs are currently creating more call-backs than all other target pests.



Bed bugs are about 1/4 inch long and their colour ranges from dark red to almost black

(Courtesy of Dr. Mike Potter, University of Kentucky)

Bed bug treatment is complicated and may be perceived as being a challenge to today's PCO's. Plan your treatment along the basic guidelines of: a detailed and thorough inspection, preparation; treatment; and follow-up. Make these plans specific for the types of infestation that you will be treating.

Apartments, family homes, hotels, nursing homes and hospitals will each have specific requirements and unique harbourage sites that require attention. As an example, almost all hotels use a head-board fastened to the wall above the bed. This practice creates a void behind the head-board that may become heavily infested.

Inspection: When inspecting, use a bright flashlight and magnification tools. Bed bugs, eggs and faecal deposits are very small and may go unnoticed with a casual inspection. No potential harbourage site should be ignored.

Bed bugs will infest bed frames, mattresses, skirting boards, door frames, behind electrical wall sockets, behind wall posters, between books and magazines on shelves and in racks. While inspecting modern sleeping systems (i.e. waterbeds, air mattresses, and foam pads) be sure to inspect the entire structure of the system.

NB It is worth noting that a thorough bed bug treatment can take up to two hours. In some difficult cases even more time is needed.

Preparation: Thorough cleaning makes pest control more effective. Prior to treatment ask customers to strip beds down to the bare sleeping surface. Bedding (sheets, blankets, comforters, covers, and duvets) should be laundered or professionally cleaned. Personal items (stuffed animals, soft toys, blankets) should be removed and cleaned. Clutter and clothing should be removed from furniture tops and floors.

PCO's should consider using a vacuum to remove bed bugs, their eggs and faecal deposits from harbourages. Use only a specialised designed vacuum with HEPA filters to prevent the spread of potentially irritating debris through the exhaust.

Use a crack & crevice tool to remove bedbugs from deep harbourage such as under skirting boards, under carpet edges (pull the carpet up along the edge), around electric sockets (you may have to loosen the plate first), from the bed frame, inside box springs, inside furniture and from floor cracks.

Use a hand-brush attachment to vacuum mattresses and box springs (especially along seams and folds), upholstered furniture and behind curtains. When vacuuming is complete, remove the vacuum cleaner from the site and place the vacuum bag directly into a plastic bag for immediate disposal.

Treatment: Treatments for bed bug control need to be thorough. PCO's will be applying insecticides to surfaces, cracks and crevices therefore they need to ensure that the products are approved. **Always read and understand all label directions before making any insecticide application.**



Bed bug life cycle: egg, nymph, and adult

(Courtesy of Dr. Mike Potter, University of Kentucky)



Treat Perimeter Walls/Voids: The first step is to treat the wall voids of the room. Loosen sockets and wall fixtures to gain access to wall voids. If access under the skirting board is suitable (i.e. no visible dust will remain in the living space) apply dust. **Ficam® D** is effective for these types of applications. Wall void dusting is highly recommended when treating flats and hotels. Treat perimeter wall voids first on adjacent rooms. Dust may also be applied along the edge of wall to wall carpets. Pull the carpet up for treatment and replace the carpet immediately after dusting. No visible residue should be left on the wall or carpet surface. Bed bugs will move from treated to untreated areas, so ensure that adjacent rooms are treated.

Treat Bed Area: Bed bugs are usually found close to the bed so focus on the headboard, foot board (if present), box spring/support platform and frame. All cracks and crevices of the bed structure must be treated with a residual like **Ficam® W** and **K-Othrine®**. If needed, **Ficam® W** and **K-Othrine®** can be applied directly to mattresses and sleeping surfaces along seams, tufts and folds. Box spring tops should be treated in an identical manner to mattresses.

Treat Furniture (Drawers, Dressers, Sofas and Chairs): The next step is to do a very thorough crack and crevice treatment to all the furniture in the room. For upholstered furniture, use a similar treatment as the mattress and box spring. Always turn infested furniture over and treat from the bottom. Some furniture may have hollow metal framing (children's bunk beds are an example). Treat inside the metal tubing with a dust.

Follow Up: Within 5-10 days, plan a return visit and repeat the above inspection. Re-treat any area where bed bugs persist and treat new areas where bugs may have moved to avoid insecticide treatments. Follow up is essential since bed bug eggs will hatch after treatment and possibly find untreated harbourages. In hotels it is highly recommended to leave the room unused until the infestation is eliminated. In cases of heavy infestations, a third visit is recommended.

Treatment proposals: It is clear that effective bed bug treatment is labour intensive and requires more than one visit. Treatments should be priced accordingly to the level of infestation.



Bed bug infested mattress

(Courtesy of Dr. Mike Potter, University of Kentucky)

The underside of the box spring may be sprayed with liquid residuals, or for long residual, treated with a dust such as **Ficam® D**. After treatment, covering the mattress with a plastic or allergy-proof cover will help prevent re-infestation.



BACKED by BAYER™

For further information on Ficam® W & K-Othrine® visit: www.pestcontrol-expert.com