Developed by

Finally. Complete information on what to look for in bed bug service agreements.

Clarity on what to do with furniture exposed to bed bugs.

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Complete information on bed bug control methods.

The comprehensive authority on bed bug detection and control.

A SUMMARY FOR CONSUMERS

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR BED BUGS

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N P M A

BMP BED BUGS

best management practices

www.BedBugBMPs.org
Controlling, let alone eradicating, this pest is extremely difficult. To ensure industry professionals have the best possible guidance on controlling bed bugs effectively, responsibly and safely, the National Pest Management Association (NPMA) has created Best Management Practices for Bed Bugs (BMPs), guidelines developed by industry professionals, regulators, academics, and entomologists. In addition to helping industry professionals, the guidelines are useful to consumers so that they can understand what they should expect in working with trained pest management professionals for problems associated with bed bugs. Rest assured, bed bugs can be treated but proper management will involve an effective partnership between a pest professional and customer.

The National Pest Management Association is pleased to offer this summary overview for consumers on what they will find in the Best Management Practices for Bed Bugs. If you believe you may have bed bugs or would just like to understand more about how inspections and treatment are performed, please visit www.npmapestworld.org.

Business Practices
Offering general guidelines to pest management professionals, the BMPs stipulate the necessity of fairness and honesty in advertising and all transactions with the public, stress the importance of ongoing employee education, and offer an overview of basic information essential in servicing consumers. Potential customers should consider this a Business 101 checklist.

Service Agreements
Because bed bugs are a unique pest, the NPMA’s BMPs offer guidance to professionals on what items should be included in service agreements. The clearly outlined inclusions and exclusions will also be helpful to any customer considering engaging a pest management professional.
Client Cooperation & Treatment Preparations

A well informed client, working with a trained pest management professional, provides an effective team in combating bed bugs. The BMPs offer guidance on client education and what steps clients may be responsible for in supporting the elimination of bed bugs in both residential and commercial locations.

Bed Bug Detection

The BMPs offer helpful guidance on what constitutes evidence of bed bugs and what doesn’t. The various methods of inspection are addressed, including descriptions of how each is performed. The detection advice helps professionals and consumers alike understand when immediate treatment is warranted and when monitoring should be employed. Methods for such monitoring, including advantages and disadvantages for each type, are addressed.

Disposal of Beds, Furniture & Possessions

To many people’s surprise, the BMPs discourage the disposal of items infected with bed bugs. Instead, they offer guidance on why throwing out infested items is often unnecessary and recommend procedures for properly removing furniture when it does become necessary.

For more information on bed bugs or NPMA’s Best Management Practices for Bed Bugs, please contact your local pest management professional or www.BedBugBMPs.org.
SELECTING A PEST PROFESSIONAL

1. Always deal with a qualified and licensed pest management company. Consider asking to see the license or other credentials of the pest management professional that comes to solve your pest problem.

2. Evaluate pest control companies that are members of national, state or local pest management associations as they have access to up-to-date information and education.

3. For bed bug service work, work with companies who have experience in dealing with this challenging pest.


5. Ask friends and neighbors to recommend pest control companies they have used successfully and how satisfied they were with the service.

6. If a sizable amount of money is involved, get bids from several pest management companies.

7. Don’t rush a decision. Since you are paying for professional knowledge as well as skillful application of pesticides, look for someone whose judgment you can trust.

8. Before signing a contract, be sure to fully understand the nature of the work to be performed, the extent of the infestation, and what is covered by the service agreement.

9. Find out if the pest control company has liability insurance to cover any damages to your house or furnishings during treatment.

10. If a guarantee is given, know what it covers, how long it lasts, what you must do to keep it in force, and what kind of continuing control, prevention and management are necessary.

11. Buy value, not price. Beware of professionals that offer bargains that sound too good to be true.

12. Homeowners can call state pest control regulatory agencies for information regarding the status of pest management companies. In most states the regulatory agency is the State Department of Agriculture.

www.BedBugBMPs.org