



STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Paul Wenning, Chair, Franklin County Board of Health
Dr. Susan Jones, The Ohio State University
Sue Carpenter, Columbus Code Enforcement
Andrew Christman, Ohio Pest Management Association
Matt Beal, Ohio Department of Agriculture

Guidelines for Reducing the Risk of Transporting Bed Bugs

All employees who visit consumers **in their homes or apartment units** are strongly encouraged to use the following guidelines. While these guidelines are specifically designed to prevent staff from transporting bed bugs to the work place or home, they also help to reduce the risk of carrying other pests, such as roaches, from an infested location.

1. **Required** for all employees who conduct home visits.
 - a. All employees must attend bed bug training
2. **Recommended guidelines for in-home visits. Employees should:**
 - a. On intake or prior to the first home visit, ask the client if they are having their home treated for roaches, or bed bugs. Check the list of buildings with known infestations before going on any home visit.
 - b. Put on protective shoe covers (booties) before entering an infested home or apartment unit located in a building with a known infestation. Disposable, protective coveralls should also be worn if the employee is going to be moving or disturbing items in the residence's home or apartment. Use the talking points from the bed bug training to explain to the client why the coveralls are being worn.
 - c. Do not sit on sofas, upholstered chairs, or beds.
 - d. Keep the following items in the car:
 - i. Protective booties and coveralls.
 - ii. Spray bottle containing a 70% solution of isopropyl alcohol
 - iii. Disposable Plastic bags that can be sealed for transporting clothing and equipment that has become contaminated.
 - iv. A change of clothes and shoes
 - v. Stool
 - e. Take only those items that are necessary for the visit into the home. Store personal items securely in your vehicle prior to getting to the location.
 - f. Avoid placing any items on upholstered furniture, bedding or on carpeted floors.
 - g. Take the following steps if bed bugs are found during the home visit:



- i. Return to your vehicle, but do not enter your car.
 - ii. Perform a self inspection.
 - iii. Spray isopropyl alcohol directly on any visible bed bugs.
 - iv. Remove protective shoe covers and coveralls (if used) immediately following the visit. If the customer lives in a multi-unit building, remove the protective gear just outside of their door. Do NOT leave the shoe covers on as you walk through the building. Place them in a tightly sealed plastic bag and immediately place the bag in an outside trash container.
 - v. If protective coveralls were worn, carefully pull your arms from the sleeves. Then fold the coveralls downward to your legs, turning them inside out as they are removed. Step out of the legs, and finish rolling them inward. This will trap any bugs inside the gear. Immediately place all of the protective gear that you wore in a plastic bag and seal it. Dispose of the bag in an outdoor trash receptacle.
- h. Always conduct a self-inspection for pests immediately after leaving someone's home, and before entering another facility or a vehicle.
- i. Pay attention to inside and outside of shoes, lace holes, socks, pant legs, leg area and around hands and arms.
 - ii. If live bed bugs are observed, spray isopropyl alcohol directly on the bed bugs.
 - iii. The employee, who may have contracted bed bugs should notify a supervisor and go home. Once there, the employee should remove all clothing either in the garage (if possible) or on a hard floor just inside of the entry door. Immediately place the clothing that you wore in a trash bag, which then should be tightly closed via a knot or twist tie. It would be a good idea to keep a supply of plastic bags in your vehicle, or within easy reach for disrobing. Wash contaminated clothing in hot, soapy water and dry in a dryer using the highest heat setting. The employee should take a shower or bath. Any clothing or items taken into the home that cannot be washed or dry cleaned should be placed in a hot dryer for at least 15 minutes. (If items are taken to a dry cleaner, inform the dry cleaner of the possible bed bugs.)
- iv. Upon returning to the office, staff must complete the Safety Committee form.**

2. Protective Gear

- a. Protective booties
- b. Sealable plastic bags
- c. Spray bottles



- d. Plastic stool
 - e. Protective suit
3. **Suggestions** These guidelines and the following suggestions were gathered from the Central Ohio Bed Bug Task Force. These practices may help avoid transporting bugs from one consumer to another or into your own home.
- a. When in doubt, wear the protective booties to each visit. Employee training will provide you with talking points to help you discuss this protective measure with clients.
 - b. Remember to remove protective gear inside out, trapping any bugs inside the gear, then place the items in a plastic bag and seal it.
 - c. Keep car clean of clutter, vacuum weekly, and monitor it for signs of an infestation.
 - d. Keep a separate pair of shoes and a jacket (if desired) for use in client homes in a sealed bag.
 - e. Discourage the sharing of vacuum cleaners by consumers to avoid the transmission of bed bugs. If using a vacuum or vacuum attachment in an infested residence, it is a good idea to finish up by vacuuming up a small amount (~1/4 cup) of cornstarch or talcum powder. The vacuum action will cause the powder to be aerosolized and drawn into the bed bugs' breathing holes, which will suffocate them. Then immediately place the vacuum cleaner bag in a plastic bag, seal tightly, and discard it in a container outdoors to prevent captured bed bugs from escaping into the home.
 - f. Do not redistribute items (furniture, etc.) from one consumer to another as this may be a means of contamination. Bed bugs are excellent hitchhikers that can hide in furniture, clothing, or other items brought from infested areas.

For more information on bed bugs, visit www.centralohiobedbugs.org.

April 2009