



## **Fact File – Bed bugs**

Bed bugs are blood suckers that require blood to survive and reproduce.

In New Zealand, as in most parts of the world, we have seen an increase in bed bug activity that is attributed to frequent travel - bedbugs are great hitch hikers.

Bed bugs are nocturnal. They return to their hiding places after feeding, approximately two hours before dawn. They live in close proximity to their host - you.

Bed bugs can cause skin irritations and allergens, with the wound becoming a red nasty welt that is usually seen on the upper torso.

The bed bug life cycle goes from egg, nymph to adult. Eggs hatch within 7-30 days and the nymphs must have at least one blood meal between moults; about five before reaching adulthood. A female bed bug can lay 200-500 eggs in her lifetime. If treatment doesn't take place, the numbers can escalate out of control.

### **How we treat bed bugs**

Bed bugs can be very difficult to eradicate and may take more than one treatment.

Our technicians will carry out a thorough inspection of your beds, mattresses and skirting boards to locate the infestation. They may also need to remove electrical plug plates and dismantle bedheads.

We strongly recommend the use of 'Just Freeze' with Cryonite for the immediate treatment of bed bugs. This is a chemical free treatment. We also recommend the use of a pesticide barrier treatment, which works on residual contact to kill bed bugs. We find that a combination of chemical and chemical free treatments can be extremely effective in the control of these nasty little blood suckers.

Our technician will recommend if you should 'encapsulate' or dispose of your mattress/base to prevent reinfestation.

Your bedding (bed linen, blankets and pillows) must be washed using a full hot water cycle and then hot air tumble dried for at least 30 minutes. The other option is to dispose of, and replace all your bedding. Your carpet may also need to be steam cleaned. We will advise you about this once we understand the level of infestation.

Reinfestation can be an ongoing problem particularly if you travel or if you have guests staying. Sometimes a number of treatments are required to fully control bed bugs.

### **Tips to prevent bedbugs**

- Vacuum at least twice a week including furniture and edges of the carpet throughout the entire apartment/house
- Vacuum your mattress and the base when turning your mattress
- Check the box spring base and mattress once a month for bed bugs and eggs
- Change bed linen once a week and if blood spots are visible, check for bed bugs and eggs
- Do not buy second hand furniture as it could be infested with bed bugs
- If your friends are being bitten at their house, ask them not to visit your home until they have had their pest infestation treated
- Check for signs of bed bug activity when staying at hotels or backpackers – never put bags or clothes on the bed
- Do not use products or chemicals purchased from a shop as they will not stop the infestation
- Do not use 'flea bombs' as they will spread the bed bug infestation (flea bombs may also activate the fire prevention system in some apartment complexes)
- Call our office, or your property manager/owner if you suspect there are bedbugs



## Pre and Post Treatment Guide

It is important that your technician has easy and safe access to all entry points such as doorways, windows and skirting boards – these are the key areas for treatment. Before your technician arrives please make sure you:

- Cover beds, bed linen and pillows
- Clear any items from window sills and the floor (including from under beds and other furniture)
- Put personal items (e.g. clothing, toys) in cupboards or on a bed with a cover sheet
- Put personal toiletries (e.g. toothbrush, towels, toilet paper) in cupboards or cover them
- Put food and crockery away in cupboards (store food in airtight containers)
- Clean behind and under your whiteware appliances e.g. fridge, dishwasher and oven
- Wash walls and skirting boards.

Cleaning may remove the residual product leaving the treatment ineffective. We recommend cleaning walls and skirting boards and water blasting the outside of your property several days before the treatment.

### Do you have pets?

You must notify our office if there are pets on your property. If you have an 'inside' pet you must make alternative arrangements for your animal during the treatment and for at least three hours **after** the treatment. Reptile or fish tanks must be covered with oxygen supplies turned off.

### After your pest control treatment

- Do not enter the property for at least three hours **after** your pest control treatment
- Wipe down food preparation areas (but not walls)
- Wash any bedding/covers that were left out
- Do not touch any installed traps or bait
- Do not wash the product off surfaces.

### For to prevent further infestations

There is no such thing as an invisible barrier to stop pests from coming inside. We view pest control as a partnership between our qualified technicians and you, the property owner/tenant. Good sanitation and hygiene, together with an effective pest control programme can reduce infestation.

We also recommend that you:

- Clean your kitchen and food preparation areas every day
- Remove rubbish and food scraps every day – dispose of in sealed bags
- Clean behind the fridge and oven to prevent pests from breeding (at least every 1-3 months)
- Regularly clean kitchen cupboards that are used to store food (at least every 1-2 months)
- Always keep food stored in air tight containers (e.g. flour, rice, spices, pasta, fruit and vegetables)
- Clean pet food bowls after every use

### Our products

We offer a 100% guarantee on the professional service and application of our products. We use commercial pest control products that are approved by New Zealand's [Environmental Protection Agency](#). These products are designed to break down after a six to eight week period. The product has a manufacturer's guarantee of up to three months. To remain effective, the product must not be removed for the recommended life of the treatment (12 weeks). New Zealand has harsh UV light that may cause the product to break down earlier. More than one treatment may be required for ongoing control over the summer months.

**Your treatment has a set timeframe for effectiveness. If you have any questions or concerns within four weeks of your treatment date please contact us on T: 0800TOAJET | E [info@ajetservices.co.nz](mailto:info@ajetservices.co.nz).**