

## BEDBUGS

Bedbugs are 4-5mm in length, wingless and reddish brown in colour. They have developed walking legs and are relatively flat, enabling them to squeeze into small crack and holes. They are active at night and towards dawn, when they emerge to feed. Bedbugs draw blood from human hosts; their bites can be very irritable and cause prolonged itching.



### How did the problem occur?

A recent survey has shown that reported bedbug infestations in London are rising at an alarming rate of 25% each year. Bedbugs cannot fly and will not crawl long distances to infest new areas. Instead they are transferred from site to site among belongings or clothes. For example, they may have been brought in on a second hand piece of furniture, or in clothes after visiting an infested room.

### What does treatment involve?

The treatment for bedbugs is highly intensive. We will need to inspect all parts of the premises for infestation, searching cracks and crevices. Bed bugs are notoriously difficult to get rid of so control depends treating **all these areas**. There is additional work that **you** are required to carry out before and after our visits to make the treatment as successful as possible.

### During our visit:

Please arrange for yourself to go out for three to four hours after the treatment – you should not re-enter the house once the technician starts their work.

### What will you need to do BEFORE we visit?

- All bedding, clothing, cushions, curtains and any other fabric items need to be washed at 90°C, and ideally tumble-dried at 45°C for at least 45 minutes. Placing smaller items at very low temperature (about -17°C) for at least 10 hours is also effective in killing bedbugs. All clean items **must** be kept in sealed containers or bags until treatment is complete to prevent re-infestation. The chemicals we use can stain delicate fabrics; keeping items sealed will also protect them from this.
- Non-washable items that show signs of activity should be discarded.
- All carpeted areas should ideally be **steam-cleaned** and then **vacuumed**. Bedbugs are likely to seek refuge in rarely disturbed areas, such as underneath furniture and along wall floor junctions. They may also be inside furniture, so wardrobes, drawers and cupboards should be emptied and vacuumed so we can spray them.
- Your bed must be completely stripped of soft furnishings. We will need to inspect and treat all parts of the bed frame; any fabric on the base should be opened or removed prior to our visit.
- All storage (for example under beds, in washing baskets or on floors) needs to be removed and all rooms need to be thoroughly tidied to ensure that our chemicals reach all areas.
- Any fragile or electrical items should be moved to a safe place, as our treatment is very intense and will involve moving and possibly turning over the bed and bedside furniture. Microbee will not be liable for replacing any items that were fragile and damaged during the treatment.
- Should you come across a bedbug in the process of clearing up, please fix this to a piece of paper with sticky tape or in a sealed jar and store it for our technician.
- Any fish tanks and any other pets must be removed from the room/property during treatment and remain out for the two hours afterwards.

### What will happen DURING the visit?

Visits are booked 2-3 days in advance, to allow you time to prepare your property. Each visit can take up to half a day, depending on how many rooms are to be treated. The technician will carry out a thorough inspection of your property to determine the extent of the infestation. You will then be asked to leave, and given a time at which you can re-enter. This will be about 3-4 hours after the completion of the spray.

Find out more about bedbugs  
(and other pests) at Microbee:

020 8540 9968

[info@microbee.co.uk](mailto:info@microbee.co.uk)

[www.microbee.co.uk](http://www.microbee.co.uk)

The technician will apply a chemical spray to the infested areas, according to the findings of their inspection. This contains a fast-acting insecticide and a growth-regulating hormone to quickly reduce the infestation and prevent the bedbugs from breeding. Where sprays cannot be used (e.g. around electrical devices), an insecticide dust may be applied. The insecticides can remain active for up to two weeks.

The technician will then fog the property using an ultra low volume insecticide. This will circulate in the air and get behind large items which we cannot move, like wardrobes.

All floors should not be vacuumed or washed for 2 weeks after the treatment, as this will remove the insecticide from the surface. We recommend 3 visits in total spaced 1 month apart.