



Southwest MO: (417) 831-7378

Southeast MO: (573) 803-7828

Email: info@bugzero.com

Web: www.bugzero.com

Basic Steps for the Concerned Traveler

This guide has been written for those people who want avoid staying in bed bug infested quarters and avoid bringing bed bugs home when they return from travel.

Prior to Leaving on Your Trip

1. Encase all mattresses and box springs prior to leaving on your trip

This will prevent bed bugs from getting inside your mattresses & box springs and will aid in early detection if you bring bed bugs home. Bug Zero recommends Protect-A-Bed / AllerZip™ Encasements.

2. Purchase heavy duty (>2mil) plastic bags

These need to be large enough to hold your suitcases. Store them in your car. After traveling, and before you place luggage back in your car, seal everything in these bags. This will protect your car from becoming infested.

3. Prior to leaving on your trip

Purchase No Pest® Strips containing DDVP (Vapona). No Pest® Strips can be used upon your return to destroy bugs that may have hitched a ride back with you in your luggage. Use in accordance with all of the manufacturer's label directions.

4. Packing for your trip

Hard shelled luggage is less bed bug friendly than fabric. Clothing that can be hot laundered or dry cleaned can be easily dealt with when you get home, however items that cannot be laundered such as electronics, toiletries, etc. can be packed in sealed Ziploc® bags to protect them from becoming infested should you encounter bed bugs.

During Your Stay at Your Destination

The likelihood of encountering bed bugs and bringing bed bugs home with you can be reduced by thoroughly inspecting your accommodations and taking measures to protect your luggage and its contents throughout your stay.

1. Conduct Inspection of the Bed

Look for live bugs, dark brownish to black spots/stains or shed skins:

- Edges of the mattress and box spring
- Between mattress & box spring
- Bottom of the box spring
- Behind headboard

2. Keep Luggage Closed and Away from Bed Bug Prone Areas

Keep all zippers closed and do not place or store luggage on or next to beds, upholstered furniture or in a closet. The further you store your luggage away from these areas the better.



3. Keep items that cannot be laundered in sealed Ziploc® Bags

Items that cannot be laundered such as books, electronics, toiletries, jewelry etc... should be kept sealed in Ziploc® bags whenever they are not in use. Even laptop computers can be kept in sealed Ziploc® bags when not in use, especially during the nighttime hours while you are sleeping.

4. If you suspect bed bugs in your hotel room

Quietly notify property management. Even the very best properties are vulnerable to bed bugs. Reputable management will appreciate your help in discovering them. Remember that the bugs you see may not be bed bugs. If you are able to collect a specimen in a container, Bug Zero can identify it for you.

Returning Home From Your Destination

If you believe you encountered bed bugs during your stay or that your personal belongings are infested, you should keep all items sealed in bags and call Bug Zero to evaluate the situation. Otherwise, we recommend the following:

1. Bag and seal luggage before placing in your vehicle

All luggage should be placed in the plastic bags that you packed in your vehicle before leaving on your trip and sealed tightly. If bed bugs are in or on your luggage this step will keep them isolated until you can deal with the luggage and its contents at home and will prevent bugs from leaving the luggage and infesting the vehicle.

2. Unpack Luggage Carefully and Methodically

Do not take your luggage inside your home. If possible, unpack your luggage in an area that is well lit and away from any furniture and sleeping areas (some examples include: outdoors, or in a garage).

- Remove luggage from plastic bag and discard of it in an outdoor trash receptacle. Unpack one suitcase at a time, separating clothing that can be laundered, clothing that must be dry cleaned, and items that cannot be laundered.
- Items that cannot be laundered that were sealed in Ziploc® bags throughout your stay can be removed from the bags and the bags immediately discarded in an outdoor trash receptacle. If you were diligent in keeping these items sealed while traveling except for times that they were in use, the likelihood of these items being infested is minimal. If you still have any concerns about these items you can refer to the actions listed below for “Items that cannot be hot laundered or dry cleaned”
- All clothing including “Dry Clean Only” items should be sealed in plastic garbage bags and placed aside.
- Bags should remain sealed until they can either be hot laundered or dealt with using one of the alternative methods discussed in the section below “Addressing Items that Have Been Removed from the Suitcase”.



3. Addressing Luggage and Items that Have Been Removed from the Luggage

- Items that cannot be laundered

Items that cannot be hot laundered include luggage, electronics, etc... Before addressing any of the items that have been removed from the luggage, it is important to first address the luggage itself to contain/isolate any bugs or eggs that may be associated with the luggage. One option is listed below:

OPTION 1-No-Pest® Strips

A No Pest® Strips containing DDVP/Vapona can be placed in heavy duty plastic bags containing empty luggage and items that cannot be laundered. The bags should be sealed and left for at least two weeks in order to kill any bugs that may be present. All label directions, precautions and restrictions should be adhered to strictly.

OPTION 2- Call Bug Zero

We can evaluate the situation and make recommendations or schedule service.

- **Clothing**

Hot Laundering of Clothing

Clothing that has been separated for washing can be placed directly in the dryer on the hottest cycle possible for at least 30 minutes. You can then proceed with regular washing/drying at your convenience.

Dry Cleaning

“Dry Clean Only” items may be dried on high heat for 30 min so long as they are not wet initially.

4. Inspect your mattress and box spring encasements

Your final defense in catching bed bugs early are the encasements you installed on your bed prior to travel. Encasement should be inspected from time to time after returning from your trip. If any evidence of bed bugs is detected or you begin to experience itchy welts you should immediately call a Bug Zero to investigate the possibility of bed bugs.