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## **Bed Bug Travel Tips**

Frequently, guests who've had bedbug problems report them online so, before booking a motel/hotel room you may want to read user reviews of the particular motel/hotel and location you are traveling too. Bear in mind that one report of bedbugs does not mean the entire facility is infested, it may have been an isolated issue and has since been taken care of. However, if you see multiple listings of problems you may want to take precautions during your stay or find another motel/hotel.

All motels/hotels can become infested with bedbugs. Remember it is not their fault and another guest has actually started the infestation. In most cases had the motel/hotel known of the problem it would have been taken care of before your arrival. Our personal experience has been that high to mid priced motels/hotels don't waste anytime in getting a room treated. However on the other end of the spectrum we will see managers drag their feet, deny problems and try to treat themselves before calling a professional. Again this doesn't mean they are all managed in this way. In our travels weather it is a \$50/night or \$200/night we always-always inspect before staying.

As you travel bedbugs can easily be picked up at motels/hotels, friends/relatives homes, airplane, ships, taxi, bus, train or use your imagination and it could be the source of the next infestation. If during your stay you find bedbugs it is our suggestion that when you return home you DO NOT bring any items into your home.

- If at a motel/hotel, ship, train request or demand they dry all your clothing and dryable items for 20-30 minutes on high heat. If they won't do it find a laundry mat on your way home and as a secondary precaution dry them again when you get home.
- If at friends/relatives it is best to dry all items at a laundry mat on your way home.

Dealing with luggage (that won't fit in the dryer), electronics and other personal belongings can be challenging. Leave the suitcase in the garage for several weeks and thoroughly inspect the other items before they enter your home.

### **PACKING**

- We suggest packing your clothes in a duffel bag that can be placed in the dryer.
- When you return home place dirty/soiled laundry in the washer and clean clothes in the dryer with the duffel bag and dry on high heat for 20-30 minutes.
- If you travel with a suitcase follow the instructions listed above.

## **ROOM INSPECTION (The 5 minute inspection that may save you \$Thousands\$)**

- Upon arrival at the motel/hotel, place your luggage in the bathtub.
- Get your flashlight.
- What you're looking for is blood spots, fecal staining and bedbugs. (adult bedbugs are the size of an apple seed and are dark reddish brown in color)
- Look inside the pillow cases paying close attention to the edges.
- Roll the comforter back and inspect along the edges and creases.
- Pull the sheet back and inspect edges and creases.
- Remove the fitted sheet from head of bed and check the edges, creases and pockets.
- On the mattress check around the ribbing/seams also check around any tags. (We usually do this about 2 ft down from the head of the bed)
- Next slide the mattress to the foot of the bed 2-3 foot and inspect the ribbing/seams on the box springs, plastic corner pieces on the bottom outside edges of the box springs and bedframe.
- The last step is checking around the headboard. A lot of headboards hang on the wall and can easily be removed by lifting up. You can then lay the headboard facedown on the bed and inspect the backside paying close attention to cracks/crevices and screw holes. Don't forget to inspect the bracket fastened to the wall.

If no visible evidence of bedbugs are found, it is safe to bring your luggage into the room. As a precaution it is best to keep all luggage off the floor. **DO NOT PLACE IT ON AN EXTRA BED, SOFA or CHAIR.**

If bedbugs are detected, you should request another room. Be sure to inform and talk with hotel management. It is also a good idea to take a picture of any insect found. Just in case it's misidentified by you or motel/hotel staff.

Make sure you inspect the new room.

Although this is no guarantee that bedbugs aren't in the room at least you looked!

World Pest Control and Sunflower Services has the most up to date technology to treat Bed Bugs. With the use of Remedial Heat it allows us to kill all stages of Bed Bugs. Best of all it is GREEN to the environment you live in and can be completed in one treatment.