



Tips for Reducing the Risk of Transferring Bed Bugs while Moving to a New Home or Apartment

- Keep luggage and other personal belongings stored in heavy duty plastic bags or luggage encasements while moving to your new home/apartment.
- When reaching your new home/apartment, leave the luggage in the garage or outside, if possible, until it is able to be laundered.
- If luggage must be brought inside the house/apartment, unpack the luggage in an area that is well lit and away from any furniture and sleeping areas. Take the bag that the luggage was removed from and discard it in an outdoor trash receptacle as soon as possible.
- Items that will not be immediately laundered should be kept in the presorted sealed bags.
- Heat kills bed bugs. Wash clothes at the hottest recommended setting. Tumble dry the clothes on high heat for 30 minutes (120°F or above). Keep clothes that require dry cleaning in a plastic sealable bag until dry cleaning. Items or clothes that cannot be washed should be tumble dried on high heat for 30 minutes.
- Items that cannot be laundered, but have been kept in sealed plastic bags throughout the trip, can be removed from the bags and inspected for signs of bed bugs. Discard the bags in an outdoor trash receptacle.
- Extreme caution must be used if considering moving furniture and other household items to the new house/apartment. These items must be thoroughly examined for the presence of bed bugs, and treated if necessary. Moving furniture from homes & apartments where there was an infestation of bed bugs is not recommended since bed bugs and their eggs may be present and brought to the new home/apartment.

Additional Resources:

- Central Ohio Bed Bug Task Force - CentralOhioBedbugs.org
- Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CD) Bed Bug FAQs - CDC.gov/Parasites/Bedbugs/FAQs.html
- Cuyahoga County Bed Bug Task Force - CuyahogaBedbugs.org
- Ohio Department of Health - ODH.Hhio.gov
- Ohio State University Extension (OSU Extension) - Extension.OSU.edu
- USEPA – Bed Bugs - EPA.gov/Bedbugs