

Travel Tips

It's nearly impossible to talk about taking a trip these days without the subject of bed bugs entering the conversation. Anxiety about bed bugs has never been higher, so much so that people worry about traveling on every type of public transit and staying in any caliber of hotel or motel.

Whether you travel for work or pleasure, a little bit of planning and a few precautions will make your next trip, and your return home, less worrisome:

Pack carefully.

Place and keep clothes and toiletries in tightly sealed clear plastic, zipper-lock storage bags (available at discount department stores).

Talk to the hotel staff.

When making your reservation, or when you check in, don't be shy about simply asking whether the hotel has had bed bugs in the past year, and whether they were in or near the room you're checking into. Because bed bugs readily spread to adjacent rooms, ask to be placed in a room in another area of the hotel.

Inspect your room.

Use a hair dryer and a flashlight to make sure your room is bug free. Before you unpack, use a flashlight to check the headboard and corners of the mattresses and box springs for bed bugs or blood stains, which would indicate the presence of bed bugs. Use the hair dryer to blow hot air into

cracks in the wall and floorboards, behind the headboard and into the corners of the mattresses and box springs. Also do this in all the drawers, using the flashlight to help look for any running bed bugs. Tip: You might want to pack a small extension cord.

Key card test.

Slide your key card into the cracks along the top and sides of a wall-mounted headboard or even along the corners of the mattress to draw out any blood residue or cast skins.

Unpack with care.

When you return home, leave your suitcase outside or in the garage and unpack it there. Dispose of your plastic bags. Wash your clothes in hot water and dry them on the hottest dryer setting. You can run dry (unwashed) 'dry-clean-only' items in the dryer on high heat for 10-15 minutes.

Don't let your invited guests bring in unwanted guests!

Even if you don't travel, when friends or relatives visit it's important to protect your home. Carefully inspect their luggage for signs of bed bugs. This is crucial when college students return home from dorms or off-campus apartments, as these types of housing can be a source of infestation.



Though these precautions may seem extreme, they actually don't require a huge investment of time or money. The end result, enjoyment of worry-free travel and the confidence that you aren't bringing home any unwanted guests, is well worth the effort.

If, in spite of all your efforts, you suspect that you may have brought bed bugs home with you from your latest trip, contact us about our K-9 Bed Bug Detection Unit. Eradico's K-9 Unit can "sniff out" bed bug infestations in the earliest stages, when they can be controlled more easily and cost-effectively.

Let the experts at Eradico Pest Services help you develop a pro-active plan to keep bed bugs under control!

(888) 479-5900 www.eradicopest.com

