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OF THE CINCINNATI HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT'S TECHNICAL,  
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DIVISIONS, AND CINCINNATI  
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### **DISCLAIMER**

This is a list of suggested questions home occupants and business owners should consider asking pest management when securing bed bug pest control services. Information contained in this document is based on sample questions. When contacting a Pest Management Professional (PMP), responses may vary. It is recommended that when such services are being sought, that three or more services be contacted for comparison. Please be aware that besides chemical treatments, there are also many other bed bug treatment methods available.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

P **513 352 2922**

## **REGISTERED SANITARIANS**

Robert Smith  
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### **For More Information, visit:**

[www.cincinnati-oh.gov](http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov)

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We know **health** matters

# **BED BUG TREATMENT**



**QUESTIONS TO ASK A  
PEST MANAGEMENT  
PROFESSIONAL (PMP)**

## QUESTIONS TO ASK A PEST MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL (PMP)

Have you ever performed bed bug treatments?

Experience is important and a bed bug infestation is unlike other types of insect problems; hiring someone with specific knowledge of the pest is extremely important.

For how long?

At least one year.

Do you have references or recommendations?

The PMP should be able to provide references from satisfied customers.

Do you have an Ohio Department of Agriculture License?

This can be verified by calling 1-800-282-1955 ext. 31 or visiting [www.agri.ohio.gov](http://www.agri.ohio.gov). All PMPs must have a current license issued by ODA and should also be insured.

How do you treat for bed bugs?

A thorough inspection of the premises should take place before treatment. Infested areas are treated with approved materials, which may include dusts used along baseboards or in outlets, and crack and crevice applications around the room. Regardless of the methods, a company must be able to explain its treatment program.

Do you use steam or heat for bed bug treatment?

While not necessary, both can be effective non-chemical treatments to kill bed bugs and their eggs.

What chemicals do you use for treatment? Do you rotate chemicals?

A PMP should be able to provide a list of products used. All products must be labeled to treat bed bugs and be used according to label directions. Chemicals should be rotated to prevent resistance.

How many treatments does it take to get rid of bed bugs?

It is unlikely that one treatment will effectively rid the premises of bed bugs. It may take three or more treatments depending on the severity. The number of treatments may vary in each situation.

How often do you treat for bed bugs?

Depending on the chemical, weekly or bi-weekly treatments may be needed. The label of the product determines the frequency, but going longer than two weeks between treatments may be too long to control an infestation.

What areas of a house can be infested?

Any area can be infested. Bed bugs are more likely to infest the bedrooms or rooms where you are idle for long periods of time.

Do you exterminate all rooms in a residence or business?

It depends on the extent of the infestation. If only a few bed bugs are found in one room during an inspection, then it is possible only that area would need treatment.

If I see bed bugs, do I have to get rid of my furniture?

If infested furniture is in good shape (no rips, tears, etc) it is advisable to treat first. If furniture remains infested after several treatments, it should be discarded.

How do I prepare for extermination?

Based on the initial assessment, instructions should be provided by the PMP.

How much will I spend? Can you give me an estimate?

The first treatment may cost \$200-\$500 but will vary based on severity. The price for follow-up treatments will also vary. (Some charge for initial inspections, others may not.)

Do you treat apartments next to the one that is infested?

In any multi-unit building where an infestation is found, it is advisable that the PMP inspect, and possibly treat, apartments on either side, above and below. Cooperation between tenants and landlords is necessary to eradicate bed bugs from the entire building.