



GUIDELINES FOR PREVENTING BED BUG INFESTATION FROM DONATED OR SECOND-HAND ITEMS

NON-PROFIT & CHARITY ORGANIZATIONS, CHURCHES AND CONSIGNMENT SHOPS

Donations of clothing, shoes, coats, toys and other personal belongings are vital to many programs that help the disadvantaged. But sometimes when people discover bed bugs in their homes, they discard many personal belongings, and it is unclear how much of these discarded personal belongings make it to the donation stream. It is critical to be very careful about bringing donated items and the bed bugs they may harbor, into your facility or home.

Precautions for donations include:

- Do not accept donations in cardboard boxes. Insist on the usage of plastic bags.
- Sort and inspect donations carefully on clean linoleum floor and in a separate room from already sorted and inspected items. Prevent the escape of bed bugs from the sorting room into your facility by sorting inside a perimeter of carpet (double-sided) tape placed around the working space. This creates a sticky barrier that bed bugs cannot cross.
- Clean area after sorting. Vacuums can be used to suck up bugs and their waste. To prevent bed bugs from getting into the vacuum cleaner, insert a knee-high nylon stocking in the end of the vacuum hose then insert the crack and crevice attachment to hold the nylon in place. The bed bugs will be captured in the toe of the nylon stocking. When you are finished vacuuming, remove the stocking, tie a knot in the top and place in a tightly sealed plastic bag for immediate disposal in an outdoor trash container. If you do not use this strategy, vacuum containers should be cleaned with heat over 120° F. **Vacuuming alone may not eliminate bed bugs or manage an infestation. If you suspect an infestation contact a pest management professional immediately.**
- Keep sorted and laundered items tightly sealed in plastic bags from items that have not been checked or treated.
- Before distribution of clothes, backpacks, coats, linens, blankets and soft stuffed toys, wash and/or dry on the highest heat setting.
- Do not receive or sell used mattresses or box springs.