

BED BUGS AND USED FURNITURE

Bed bugs can hitchhike into your home when you bring in used furniture. They can hide in fabric covered furniture and also electronics, tables, nightstands, dressers and other furniture. If you decide to get used furniture, Choose Wisely, Inspect Carefully, Treat Anyway and Dispose of Responsibly!

Choose Used Furniture Wisely

- Avoid taking used furniture from dumps or furniture left at the side of the road. NEVER take a discarded mattress or box spring into your home. They aren't worth the risk. Furniture is usually thrown away for a good reason, and bed bugs are often why.
- Ask the owners of the furniture if they have had a bed bug problem.
- If purchasing used furniture from a store, ask if the items have been inspected for bed bugs, fleas and roaches.
- Know that fabric covered items such as couches are harder to inspect for bedbugs, fleas and roaches.

Inspect Used Furniture Carefully

- Inspect all furniture BEFORE you take it into your vehicle or home.
- Know the signs of bed bugs on furniture. Look for live bugs, bed bug skins or stains from bed bug feces. Visit www.hamilton.ca/bedbugs to learn how to look for the signs of bedbugs.
- Use a flashlight and old business card or playing card to inspect all cracks, tight spaces and hidden areas. This is where bed bugs like to hide.
- Check all seams and folds in fabric covered furniture for signs of bed bugs.
- If there are any signs of bed bugs, do not bring the furniture into your vehicle or home. (see **Dispose of it Responsibly**)

Treat Anyway

Even if there are no signs of bed bugs, treat furniture as a precaution.

- Leave the furniture outside of your home until you have treated it.
- Vacuum all cracks, tight spaces, hidden areas, seams and folds.
- Steam all cracks, tight spaces, hidden areas, seams and folds.
- Remove all cushions and covers from fabric covered furniture and put them into a hot dryer on the hottest setting for 30 minutes.

Dispose of it Responsibly

- NEVER give away or sell furniture that has bed bugs.
- Destroy infested furniture before disposing of it. Slash cushions and mattresses so that no one wants the furniture.
- Wrap furniture in plastic and mark it with clear warnings before arranging for a bulk pickup or bringing it to the dump.
- Hamilton residents can get large plastic bags for disposing of infested mattresses and couches by calling 905-546-CITY.



For additional information about bed bugs, visit www.hamilton.ca/bedbugs