

Taking Precautions (con't)

- Try to meet clients in a neutral site such as a coffee shop or library or wear a bedbug suit

Risk Management

- Report to supervisor any signs of bed bugs
- Wear light coloured clothing, pants and shirts with no cuffs and shoes with no creases
- Develop a plan to continue to provide services to client in a manner that is safe and reduces risk to yourself, others and WoodGreen
- Work with clients to educate and help eradicate bed bugs from their home
- When discarding anything that may be infested – double bag the items and label it



What to Tell Your Client

- Bed bugs are common and could have been brought home from anywhere
- **Don't Panic!** Bed bugs are difficult to get rid of, but not impossible
- Bed bugs feed on human blood – not food, like cockroaches
- They don't have to throw everything away – most things can be treated and saved, including mattresses.
- Discuss treatment options and arrange for any additional supports (landlord, social worker, pest control etc)



Preparing for fumigation

- Contact the landlord immediately (in writing if possible) and request treatment



Preparing for fumigation (con't)

- If the landlord does not respond – call City of Toronto Municipal Licensing and Standards (MLS) through 311
- Clean all clothes and place in sealed plastic bags until bed bugs are gone. Reduce the clutter – it will be easier to clean and more difficult for bugs to hide
- Home treatments won't work
- Fumigation companies will have a checklist or guide for preparing the unit – be sure to follow the instructions



Taking Precautions

- Always be alert about where you are going
- Limit what you take to a client's home and protect it by keeping it off the floor or anywhere you think might be infested
- Sit on plastic chairs where possible, avoid upholstered furniture
- Be aware of accepting donations of soft items or wooden furniture
- If you think you may have been in a place with bedbugs:
 - Put your clothes in a plastic bag
 - Seal the bag and carry it to a clothes dryer
 - Dry for 30 min on high heat
 - Check your bedroom furniture and mattress regularly



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