

Personal Protection from Bed Bugs

How to avoid picking up bed bugs at work:

Workers involved in housekeeping, facilities maintenance, inspections, home repair/services, medical and social work will be at risk for picking up bed bugs from an infested office, rooms, homes or their contents.

There are steps that can be taken to reduce these risks and workers must be prepared to follow these steps to protect themselves:

- Know or ask ahead of time whether the room or space has bed bugs.
- Do not bring bags or personal belongings inside the room and carry as little as possible with you.
- For cleaning and maintenance crews, wear a Tyvek brand suit and shoe covers or similar protective coveralls that will prevent bed bugs from hitching a ride on your clothes or shoes.
- Dissolving plastic bags are available that allow the user to isolate infested clothing until it can be placed in the wash. These bags dissolve in the laundry.
- For social and medical service providers, bring a portable stool to sit on and remain in the middle of the room. If this is not possible, be sure to sit on a hard chair, not on upholstered furniture or beds, and usually the kitchen area will have fewer bed bugs.
- Carefully shake off your clothes while standing outside before returning to your car or office.
- Bring a change of clothes and shoes for working in the field. Change clothes at work and keep the field clothes and shoes in a sealed bag for laundering.
- Know what to look for. Bed bugs are visible, but the youngest ones are very small. Inspect your living and work space on a regular basis for bed bugs and signs of bed bugs.

- Currently, there are no insect repellents that are labeled for bed bugs.