

Customer Spotlight: Rodent Guard

Mice and rats are serious pest problems. They can cause significant damage to the home, as well as present potential disease and health risks.

While rodent activity occurs all year long, it is more pronounced during the fall and winter months, when the animals take shelter indoors. That's why Pro-Tech Pest Control offers the Rodent Guard as an exclusive service for our Semi-Annual customers. The Rodent Guard service is designed to prevent mice from becoming a major problem in the home – not to be a clean-out tool for already-established populations.

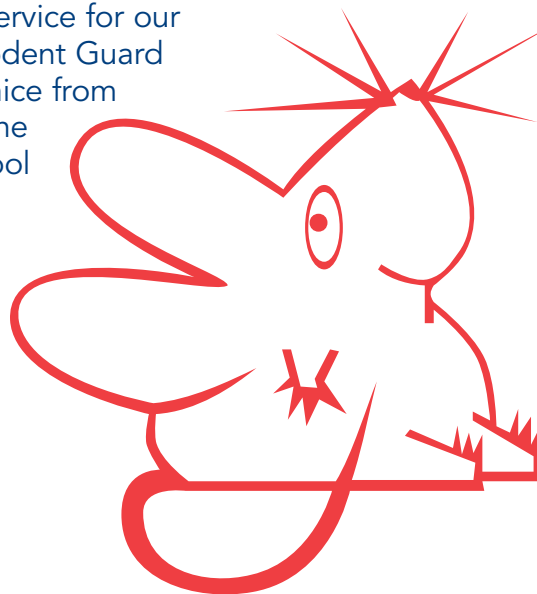
The Rodent Guard involves inspecting your home for rodent infestation, blocking common pest entryways, and placing tamper-resistant bait stations in appropriate areas.

Timing is everything when preventing a rodent infestation. Your Rodent Guard should be performed before the first major frosts occur. By placing the proper materials inside and around your home before a rodent harborage is established, the chances of your living in a rodent-free home are greatly improved.

Once mice have moved into your house, the Rodent Guard service may need the extra support of a full rodent clean-out. Both the Rodent Guard and full rodent clean-outs are supported by a six-month warranty.

Preventative and maintenance care with the Rodent Guard can save you 40 to 60 percent off the typical cost of rodent clean-out services.


So, an ounce of prevention really is worth a pound of cure! 



A Thank-you to our Loyal Customers!

Our Semi-Annual Service season benefited from this year's dry weather. While the lack of rain was not good for your lawn, it allowed us to complete the first run of Semi-Annual treatments as scheduled – without having to play catch-up in May and June. That led to a smooth transition into carpenter ant season, and then onto the second run of Semi-Annual treatments. With those pest seasons behind us and fall and winter around the

corner, we now have mice on our mind.

Tough times continue to hit people's wallets, and the loyal support of our Semi-Annual customers means a lot to all of us at Pro-Tech. We have a great group of faithful customers who make our jobs easier. We look forward to providing you with your Rodent Guard service and to our continued relationship through the winter months. 

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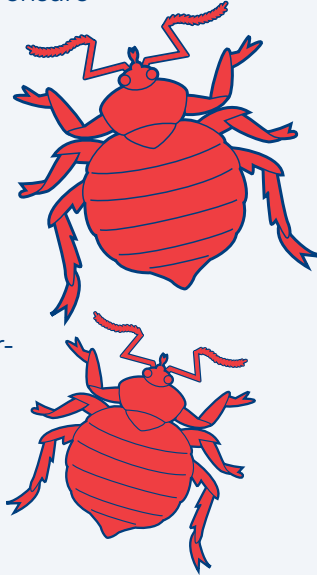
Bed Bug Safety Tips When Travelling from bedbug.com

Who doesn't love a good vacation? You work hard and need a break. So make the most of it, and be sure you avoid bringing home any unwanted castaways – such as bed bugs.

Here are some valuable tips to ensure "bed bug proof" travel!

Bed bug tips before choosing a location:

- Call the hotels that you are interested in and ask if they use anti-bed bug mattress encasements.
- Look up your location of interest or hotel address for any recent bed bug reports. This can be found online at sites such as bedbugregistry.com.



Bed bug tips before leaving your house:

- Pack using a top quality luggage liner for easier bed bug identification.
- Pack everything in bed bug free luggage liners.
- Pack a small flashlight to be better able to search for indications of bed bugs.
- Pack an anti-bed bug laundry bag and keep your clothes from exposure to the floor.
- Pack a bed bug proof travel pillow & cover in your carry-on luggage.

Bed bug tips when arriving at destination:

- Here's where your flashlight comes in handy! Inspect all the nooks and crannies of your hotel room, especially around mattresses, box springs, upholstered chairs, drawers, headboards, carpets, closets, and wall hangings. Indications of bed bug infestations include dark fecal spots, dried blood spots, molted bed bug shells, eggs, and of course bed bugs – dead or alive.

- Pull the sheets off the mattresses and inspect all edges and folds in both the mattress and the box spring

Bed bug tips while on vacation:

- Don't leave your suitcase on the floor or chairs.
- Don't leave your shoes on the floor. Keep them inside your luggage liners when not in use.
- Only take the clothes out that you will be wearing and close luggage liner immediately afterwards. They work well as a drawer liner, as well.
- Put all dirty clothes in bed bug proof laundry bags.

Bed bug tips when back at home:

- Before checking out, recheck the outside of your luggage, laundry bag, clothes and shoes for hitchhiking bed bugs.
- If you find bed bugs on your suitcase or clothes, leave them there. That's right, it's far cheaper to buy yourself a new suitcase and outfit than it is to pay for a bed bug extermination.
- Unpack your bags outdoors if possible.
- Vacuum the inside and outside of your luggage as well as the outside of your bed bug free luggage liner and laundry bag before entering the house. Do not use a bagless vacuum for this, as you will only transfer the problem.
- Wash & dry your clothing (and if possible luggage) in extreme heat. Over 140 degrees Fahrenheit to be safe.
- If you can't wash your clothing at such heats, you should have them dry cleaned. If you have a bed bug problem, please let your drycleaner know about it before they handle your clothes.

If dry cleaning is still too expensive for you, you can leave your clothes out in the extreme heat (again over 140 degrees) or cold (below 32 degrees) for a few days. Bed bugs cannot live in such extreme temperatures.

Bed Bug Preparation Sheet

If by true misfortune you were to get bed bugs, here is a sample preparation sheet that we give to every bed bug customer. The process is not fun, but neither is performing a bed bug cleanout. Thorough preparation is 100 percent necessary for success. Every crack and crevice of the home may need to be investigated and treated. In bed bug treatment, an empty house is a good house; therefore, removing as many items from the home as possible will improve the final outcome.

1. REDUCE CLUTTER (i.e. throw out shoe boxes, newspapers, etc.)
2. Remove all linens from all beds and vacuum beds (Note Below)
3. Remove all curtains from windows.
4. Wash all linens in extremely hot water and dry in high heat by machine before you put them back.
5. Remove any pet food that is out in the open.
6. Vacuum Floors.
7. Wash all clothes in hot water and dry in high heat.
8. Leave all clothing in bags until area is determined to be pest free. We recommend this until after second treatment.
9. Purchase cloth mattress encasements that zipper and apply immediately after treatment.
10. Go through all items within 10 feet of bed. After inspection, bag items and seal bag.
11. Inform pest control operator of any health issues, such as pregnancy, asthma, reduced lung capacity, etc.
12. We recommend infant children vacate the

premises for 24 hours.

13. Do not touch treated areas until dry.
14. DO NOT TREAT YOURSELF USING FOGGERS OR OVER THE COUNTER BOMBS.
15. Remove all items from under bed.
16. Call if you have any questions regarding this treatment.

SUCCESS DEPENDS ON YOUR COOPERATION!!!

Online Registry Arms Travelers Against Bed Bugs

Remember when your parents tucked you into bed and said, "Good night! Sleep tight! Don't let the beg bugs bite?" Well, now there's the Bed Bug Registry, so you can know for sure whether or not they will bite while you're on vacation.

If you're planning to travel anywhere in the United States or Canada, visit the registry at bedbugregistry.com. Type in the hotel name and city, or address, to learn whether or not the place you're visiting has a bed bug problem. You can also submit a new report, should you encounter bed bugs in your travels.

The Bed Bug Registry is a free, public database of bed bug sightings in the United States and Canada. Administered by former bed bug victim, Maciej Ceglowski, the site includes about 20,000 bed bug reports dating back to 2006.

Pulling up the Welcome Mat for Wandering Rodents

Here are some things you can do outdoors to make your home a little less attractive to wandering rodents:

- Reduce outdoor clutter and junk that create hiding places. Items such as kiddie pools, vinyl tarps, storage bins (cushions, garden tools), and lawn equipment make great harborage areas for rodents.
- Trim back vines, cut down ground covers, and prune shrubs to provide clearance underneath. These places offer shelter and food for rodents during the warmer months. Once the cold weather arrives, the next place is up your foundation and into your basement.

- Pick up any nuts and overripe fruit from your lawn, and throw out or bury spilled bird seed. Why provide pests with food? Even moving your bird feeders further away from your house will aid in the effort to live rodent-free.
- Raise woodpiles off the ground, or move the pile away from your home. More than one customer has unknowingly brought a rodent into the home while taking wood inside to burn.

Properly pest-proofing a home by sealing cracks or holes that animals can squeeze through will greatly

continued on page 4

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I already have mice in my home. Will the Rodent Guard solve my issue?

A: It might! When performing a Rodent Guard, the technician will place a series of tamper-resistant bait stations containing a first generation rodenticide, designed to eliminate a mouse population. However, if the population is bigger than expected, the bait stations are emptied faster than expected, and the mice population survives. Therein lies the importance of performing the Rodent Guard BEFORE THE MICE GET IN!

Pulling up the Welcome Mat (cont. from pg.3)

reduce the chance of problems. Mice and rats are much more likely to invade a home where they find easy entry.

Remember it is important to take the steps BEFORE it gets too cold.

Once inside the home, the mouse begins its search for food. When food is provided (in this case, inside a tamper-resistant bait station), the search is short, and the mouse is eliminated before it establishes a harborage inside your home.

Q: Is the Rodent Guard part of my Semi-Annual Service?

A: NO. While it is not included in your Semi-Annual Service, it does incur the same cost. Whatever the price of one Semi-Annual service, the same amount is owed for a Rodent Guard. Full rodent clean-outs require more material and time, thus cost more.

Q: When is a good time to schedule my Rodent Guard?

A: RIGHT NOW!