

Huron County Public Health

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

DIATOMACEOUS EARTH (DE)

HOW TO INSTRUCTIONS

Make sure you have what you need for the job. There is no wrong way to apply DE. It just needs to come in contact with the bed bugs to work. HCPH recommends not leaving large piles or sprinkling the DE everywhere. Bed bugs will just simply go around the large piles.



STEP ONE: DISMANTLE YOUR BED

To really be thorough, you need access to all of the joints and crevices where the bed bugs are probably hiding. You also need full access to both sides of your mattress pad along all of the folds and edges. These are the areas where bed bugs flourish.

STEP TWO: VACUUM

Vacuum the frame, joints, crevices, the place where the rungs go, and the entire mattress and box spring. During this process you want to vacuum up as many adults and eggs as you can. Once you complete this step you will need to throw out or empty the vacuum bag in an outside trash bin.

STEP THREE: APPLICATION

Lightly dust every nook and cranny on the bed frame and mattress. You should dust the baseboards of the room and also behind any picture frames or furniture that are close to the bed. Remove outlet covers and dust in the outlet box. Be sure to dust behind curtains and valances. Bed bugs will travel, so they could be anywhere in the room.

Using a brush, work the DE into hard-to-reach areas of the bed frame, mattress, and other spaces in the room. Remember, the idea is to get the DE into locations where the bed bug will come into contact with it. The brush will allow you to get into the smaller spaces.

STEP FOUR: REASSEMBLE YOUR BED

Once you're done with the bed, move on to surrounding furniture. Empty dresser drawers, pull drawers out and dust their undersides and the inside walls of the dresser. Dust anywhere bed bugs might hide. Work systematically around the bed and room.

STEP FIVE: REPEAT PROCESS AS NEEDED

It may take a couple days for the bed bugs to come into contact with the DE, and it will take a couple more for them to die. DE will continue working for months, so long as it stays dry. You can leave a protective coat of DE to prevent future outbreaks of bed bugs. Should you encounter any more, simply repeat these steps.



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