

# HOW TO CHOOSE A PEST MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL TO TREAT BED BUGS

There are many pest control companies working in northeast Ohio. Not all pest control companies are trained and experienced in managing bed bug infestations effectively. Bed bugs are not an easy pest to eliminate. Below are some quick and basic tips to help you know what to look for in a pest control company so that you can choose a good, knowledgeable pest management professional.

**Tips for finding a pest control professional:**

- Use phone and web directories to find listings. Some companies may list themselves as bed bug specialists.
- Ask coworkers, friends or neighbors, who may have successfully treated for bed bugs, for a referral.
- Look for companies that advertise “integrated pest management” services. Those companies are more likely to use a variety of treatment methods and materials and will typically monitor how effective their management plan was.
- Verify that the company is licensed by the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA). Check for information by calling the ODA at 1-800-282-1982 or searching on the web for the Ohio Department of Agriculture Pesticide and Fertilizer Section. Ask the company to see their ODA issued license before the treatment begins.

**A good company will do the following:**

- Provide several references including customers who have received bed bug services.
- Insist on inspecting the premises that need to be treated, before quoting a final price.
- Provide a price for the treatment according to their inspection findings, not just a flat fee.
- Explain various treatment options and procedures.
- Identify conditions that contribute to the bed bug infestation.
- Provide a written service agreement and an estimate of the cost.
- Provide a written checklist detailing what you should do to prepare for the treatment.
- Suggest things that can be done to reduce the risk of re-infestation.



**Interview companies, before hiring:**

- Ask about their membership in recognized national, state, and local pest control associations.
- Search the Better Business Bureau to learn if the company has a history of unresolved complaints.
- Ask the company representative to describe their approach and procedure for treating bed bug infestations.
- Ask for a written inspection report along with a treatment action plan.
- Ask if there is a treatment warranty and what the terms will be.
- Ask to see the company’s certificate of insurance and workers’ compensation coverage.
- Ask what your role or responsibilities will include to help control the current infestation and prevent future ones.
- Before agreeing to any service program, you should clarify what you and the company are each responsible for. Keep in mind, the cheapest service may not always be the best solution.

