

Bed Bug Treatment - Method Statement

1. Scope of Work

To inspect, identify, and control bed bug (*Cimex lectularius*) infestations within domestic or commercial premises using an **Integrated Pest Management (IPM)** approach in compliance with BPCA guidance, relevant legislation, and product labels.

2. Relevant Legislation and Guidance

- Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986 (COPR)
- Biocidal Products Regulation 2012 (GB BPR)
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) 2002
- Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Personal Protective Equipment Regulations 2002
- BPCA Codes of Best Practice – Surveys, Precautionary Insecticide Use, Pesticide Waste, and Professional Reporting

3. Objectives

- Identify bed bug presence, extent, and harbourage areas.
- Implement an IPM treatment programme combining **physical, mechanical, and chemical** measures.
- Minimise risks to occupants, technicians, and the environment.
- Achieve verified eradication through follow-up inspection and treatment.

4. Process and Responsibilities

4.1 Pre-Survey Communication

- Customer advised of pre-visit requirements (laundry, access, decluttering).
- Explain that all rooms may require inspection including beds, drawers, and behind headboards.

4.2 Site Survey

- Conduct a **thorough visual inspection** of all sleeping and resting areas.
- Confirm insect identity (presence of adults, nymphs, cast skins, or faecal spotting).
- Record extent of infestation and any access limitations.
- If no live activity found, implement a **monitoring programme** before treatment.
- Photograph or record evidence for reporting and quotation.

4.3 Quotation and Treatment Plan

Provide written quotation outlining:

- Rooms/areas to be treated
- Number of visits (minimum 2)
- Expected duration between visits
- Preparation required from customer
- Any limitations or warranty terms
- Clear distinction between heat, steam, and residual treatments

5. Pre-Treatment Preparation

Customer (or RPPC if agreed) must follow pre visit preparation activities according to RPPC prep checklists.

Technician will confirm all preparation complete before treatment begins.

6. Treatment Procedure

Bed bug treatments use a combination of control methods as appropriate to infestation level:

Method	Description / Application
Physical & Mechanical	Vacuuming seams, bed frames, and cracks; use of approved sprays on mattresses and harbourages.
Chemical (Residual Spray / Dust)	Apply approved insecticides (e.g. Permethrin, Deltamethrin, or similar HSE/BPR-authorised products) to cracks, crevices, skirting boards, bed frames, and behind fittings.
ULV / Mist Application	Only if required for large infestations and safe to do so, ensuring exclusion and re-entry times per label.
Monitoring / Follow-up	Use interceptors or sticky traps to assess residual activity.

Key principles:

- Always follow product **label directions** (COPR requirement).
- Use lowest effective rate ensuring efficacy.
- Minimum of **two visits**, typically 10–14 days apart.
- Record all pesticides used (product name, HSE No., active, dilution rate, quantity).
- Use appropriate PPE: coveralls, nitrile gloves, goggles, and RPE (e.g. Dräger X-Plore 3300 + A2P3 filters).

7. Post-Treatment and Re-Entry

- No occupants or pets to enter treated areas for **2–4 hours** or until surfaces dry.
- Provide written **aftercare instructions**:
 - Do not vacuum or clean treated surfaces for 10–14 days.
 - Expect minor activity for up to 10 days as residual products act.
 - Avoid moving furniture between rooms.
- Record each visit with signed **Treatment Report** (including pesticide batch codes).

8. Follow-Up Visits

- Return visit after 10–14 days to reassess activity.
- Re-treat remaining hotspots if necessary.
- Third visit optional for heavy infestations or commercial premises.
- Complete final inspection confirming no live activity observed.

9. Waste Management

- Dispose of contaminated materials and vacuum waste in sealed bags to external bins.
- Follow BPCA Code of Best Practice – **Pesticide Waste**.
- Do not discharge pesticide residues to drains or watercourses.

10. Training and Competence

All technicians undertaking bed bug treatments must:

- Hold **RSPH Level 2 Award in Pest Management** (or equivalent).
- Be familiar with BPCA Codes of Best Practice.
- Receive product-specific COSHH and application training.
- Demonstrate competence in use of residual sprayers, ULV, and PPE.

11. Emergency Procedures

- In case of accidental spill: isolate area, ventilate, absorb with inert material, and dispose of safely.
- For exposure: follow SDS first-aid instructions and seek medical attention if symptoms persist.
- Report any incident to RPPC management and record under RIDDOR if applicable.

12. Records and Documentation

- Completed **Survey & Quotation Form**
- COSHH Assessments for each product used
- Pre-Visit Checklist signed by customer
- Treatment Reports (per visit)
- Waste Disposal Log

13. Review

This Method Statement is reviewed annually or upon updates to BPCA guidance, product labels, or legislation.

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