

Buyer Beware: Do Your Homework With Bed Bug Products and Services

By James Bell
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As the bed bug epidemic across New York continues to escalate, so too has the number of charlatans offering magic remedies for infestations. The resurgence of these tenacious bloodsuckers has some residents relying on dangerous outdoor pesticides or cleverly marketed “quick fix” products.

No quick fix exists, so it’s essential to do your research, as not all bed bug products are created equal. At a minimum, make sure you’re doing the following as you try to prevent rid your property of bed bugs.

- Hire a licensed pest control company to help eradicate the problem.
- Ensure your pest control company is using a pesticide product that is registered with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- Make sure any supplemental products like mattress encasements, bed bug kits, bed bug traps and bed bug vacuums have been certified by an independent entomology laboratory, and receive positive consumer reviews on prominent websites.

This resurgence is causing some residents to resort to desperate measures, trying everything from garden and lawn chemicals to Do-It-Yourself bug bombs on or near beds to eradicate the problem. Unfortunately, not only are most of these pesticides extremely unsafe to inhale while indoors, they are also highly flammable – potentially causing yet another unnecessary hazard for you and your family. The dangers these chemicals exposes people to in a poorly-ventilated indoor environment (which can harm the central nervous system, irritate the skin and eyes or even cause cancer) clearly outweigh the benefits.

So, although it may be tempting to “just take care of it...by any means necessary” – especially for these hardy bloodsuckers – be sure to take the safety of yourself and your family into serious account when working with a pest control service or at-home remedy.

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