

CaseStudies



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"Totally astonishing."

"Massive die-off of bedbugs."

"Groundbreaking.Revolutionary"

Aprehend® Case Study – Mobile Home Treatment in Oklahoma



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Abstract

This case study describes the elimination of pesticide resistant bed bugs from a single-family mobile home in Oklahoma using Aprehend®. Eighteen months of resident treatment using off-the-shelf products proved unsuccessful. **After one treatment with Aprehend® the home remains bed bug free after 3+ months.**

Background

Triple B was called in to inspect and provide a bed bug remediation quote for a single-family mobile home in Oklahoma. The residents had been battling with bed bugs using off-the-shelf pesticide products for over 18 months. They explained that they had achieved population reduction with each application, but the bed bugs always "came back." The Triple B inspector observed significant bed bug activity during his inspection, with bed bugs visible crawling on the walls and ceiling. Using a scale from 1 - 5, with 5 being the worst, the inspector rated the level of infestation at a 4.

The home was an older style unit (Figure 1) with some remodeling. There were many cracks and crevices in drywall where bed bugs were hiding. The trailer was composed of a kitchen/dining/living area, plus a bathroom and two bedrooms. One bedroom was used by the residents full-time, while the second bedroom was used by grand-children on a regular basis. The second bedroom had bunk beds with steel frames. The inspector also noted that the home was quite cluttered, scoring 3 of 5 on a five-point rating scale.



Figure 1. Mobile home style.

Given the long-term misuse of various off-the-shelf products (Figure 2), and the likelihood of pesticide resistance in the bed bug population, the inspector recommended treatment with Aprehend®. The residents had not heard of Aprehend but were immediately enthusiastic to have the treatment once they had been informed about its properties and unique mode of action.



Figure 2. Home treatments can often make infestations harder to eliminate or control.

Resident preparation

Treatment was scheduled for 1 week after the inspection and the residents were asked to wash & dry all clothing and bedding, tidy up, and move furniture away from the walls.

On arrival the technician found that the residents had mostly complied with the preparation protocol. Some furniture had been moved away from the walls, but the technician had to move some additional items to gain full access to the base boards around the entire home.

Treatment protocol

The technician applied Aprehend® around the top border of all base boards, and around the top corner of the wall/ceiling of the entire home, including the bathroom. Aprehend® barriers were also applied on the wall around light fittings and electrical outlets and door frames in the main living area and both bedrooms.

The couch and recliner were flipped over to expose the areas underneath and were treated with Aprehend® barriers around the bottom perimeter. A further Aprehend® barrier was applied to the side perimeters of the furniture. Chests and other furniture items also received an Aprehend® barrier around the rear perimeter of each item (see Figure 3).



Figure 3: Rear perimeter treatment of a small nightstand.

In the master bedroom, the bed frame and box spring, were treated with Aprehend®, and Temprid® ready-spray was applied to the mattress seams where bed bug infestation was visible. In the second bedroom, the steel frames of the bunk beds were treated. There were no visible signs of bed bug activity on the bunk bed mattresses, so these were not treated. A total of 3 fl. oz. was applied in the entire home.

Follow-up and observations

A 1-week follow-up was scheduled, and on return, the only live bed bug activity observed was in the tufts and crevices of the couch where Aprehend® had not been applied. These were treated with Temprid® ready-spray during the follow-up inspection.

A second follow-up was conducted 2 weeks after the original application, no live bed bugs were found, and this was confirmed by the residents.

A final follow up was conducted approximately 3 months after the initial treatment. Inspection confirmed that there was still no bed bug activity in the trailer.

Overall impression and comparison with standard treatments

Triple B estimates that remediation of the mobile home using traditional chemical applications would have required a total of 4-6 treatments, using a range of chemicals to ensure that pesticide resistant bed bugs were properly dealt with. Heat treatment would not have been considered due to the potential for warping in older style mobile homes. Ultimately, the use of Aprehend® enabled Triple B to achieve bed bug eradication with a significant saving on time and labor.

Since adopting Aprehend® for their bed bug remediation protocols, Triple B has conducted over 40 jobs, with only one property requiring re-application. It is suspected that the bed bugs were being re-introduced from an existing source. **Triple B no longer offer standard chemical treatments.**

Triple B suggestions for other PMPs?

It works. Use the Aprehend® prep-sheet, it is less work for residents than most prep sheets.

Triple B suggestions for product improvements?

Please get some Aprehend® hats made !



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