
Bed bugs? Try a blanket of all-natural, clean ozone

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Everyone likes to be an expert on something.

But Amanda Thor has become a know-it-all about something she would rather know nothing about: bed bugs.

The St. Charles wife and mother got all too familiar with the blood-sucking creatures after buying a small night stand at the Kane County Flea Market. It was intended to sit next to her daughter's bed.

Proud as she was at talking the seller down to \$10, she had no idea the deal included a throw-in of the little creatures, which infested her daughter's room within 72 hours. She immediately took the table outside and saturated it with Raid, then called an exterminator.

Yes, the exterminator, using heavy chemicals, got the bugs out of her daughter's room.

"But they just migrated to our bedroom," she said. "And then they were in the couch, on the floor where the cat lies, everywhere."

While extermination did not work, Thor discovered a new treatment from a company she happened to find working in her neighborhood.

Clean Zone, of Lisle, uses artificially made ozone to eliminate unwanted living organisms -- from bugs to mold and bacteria. The company has machines about the size of a golf bag that actually create ozone, the kind we have naturally in our atmosphere.

They seal up a house or building, turn the machines on and go away for a while. The treatment area fills with ozone, which takes all oxygen from the air, effectively killing anything that needs oxygen to live.

Perhaps the best thing about the ozone treatment is it is natural, not chemical. After the treatment is over, the machines are turned off, the rooms unsealed, and within two hours the ozone converts to oxygen.

Thor also has learned a lesson about buying used furniture. She suggests consumers first go online and see what a bed bug looks like, then give any piece of used furniture a thorough going-over.

"They like legs, drawers, linens, the tags of pillows ..." she said. "You really have to look."

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