

Real Estate Journal

THE LARGEST WEEKLY COMMERCIAL/INVESTMENT NEWSPAPER IN THE WORLD

Ready to battle: Beating bed bugs in the first step with Vikane fumigation treatment

On an average day, there is one sentence I hear more than any:

"I wish I would have known about Vikane fumigation treatment first," say landlords, property owners and renters—all relieved to finally know there is a proven end solution to bed bug purgatory.

In the battle against bed bugs, education is key, and if I were given the option to choose the most significant factor that has contributed to the spread of infestations throughout New York and the globe, I would most definitely point to the lack of public awareness of accurate information. As the media builds up the bed bug hysteria and focuses on the problem, few are talking about proven solutions that will get rid of the problem for good. And with so many pest control operators and pesticides to choose from, it may be hard to decide which option is the best, cost wise and most importantly, which one actually works.

But, the bed bug battle really can be achieved in one step. By educating yourself and knowing the facts about bed bugs and various treatments, you can save a lot of time, energy and financial resources. Many landlords, bombarded with a mixture of myths and facts, might call the first pest control company that comes to mind because of stress or pressure from tenants and the community. But, with bed bugs becoming increasingly resistant to certain residual pesticides and a growing number of methods that may not be proven 100% effective, this is the biggest mistake made and could not be a worse idea. Contacting a bed bug specialist that only treats for bed bugs and offers a 100% guarantee is the only way to insure immediate relief.

It's that same dilemma and lack of education and knowledge that people express when finally turning to Sulfuryl Fluoride (aka Vikane). Known by scientists as 100% effective in eliminating bed bugs since 1961, it is approved for use on all items including clothing, musical instruments, electronics, furniture, historical documents and even vehicles. It's colorless, tasteless and odorless, leaves behind no harmful residue and has been used in hundreds of thousands of pest infestations that range from hotels and nursing homes to dormitories and apartment buildings. Vikane even has the power to do something that traditional pesticides cannot: kill all life stages, including eggs in a single treatment guaranteed. This is because of its ability to produce an effect that interferes with the pest's ability to absorb oxygen necessary to sustain life. With just one fumigation treatment, which lasts 24 to 48 hours, the gas will reach places human-applied pesticides and other treatments like heat or freezing cannot. And, when an entire structure cannot be fumigated, there's even an option for vault fumigation to rid single tenants of infestation. There is no bagging, laundering or discarding of personal belongings that traditional methods insist on - just minor preparation and the end of a long battle. The gas even vents itself naturally and breaks down in the environment, making sure no harm is caused after fumigation.

It's no wonder that people wish they had known about Vikane first. While many say that it is the end-all, be-all and the treatment of all treatments, it's really the quality of life aspect behind Vikane that truly deserves the praise. It will not only save you money by avoiding frequent, unsuccessful re-treatments and the loss of tenants, but it also saves money, personal possessions and tenants' confidence in you as a landlord or parent company. They'll be thankful to keep their personal treasures, even though traditional methods may highly suggest they toss items away like bedroom sets or artwork. Which by the way only spreads the infestation to others. It's the same for those who no longer have to worry about their children and pets living around the harmful residual pesticides. The headaches, money pit and hopelessness can all be avoided. As life throws us more complicated situations in treating pests, Vikane certainly makes it easier to cope and close the book on the bed bug battle.

Donna Bossuyt is the business development manager for Bed Bugs and Beyond Fumigation Specialists, New York, N.Y.