

Homeowner Pre-Treatment Preparation Checklist

Chemical Treatment for Fleas

Re-entry time: Typically 4 hours (or until surfaces are fully dry — confirm with your technician)

Proper preparation is critical for successful flea control. Fleas have a complex life cycle (eggs, larvae, pupae, and adults), and many stages hide in carpets, furniture, and pet bedding. Thorough vacuuming and clearing access points help the residual insecticide reach more of the infestation. Confirm any company-specific instructions, as products and protocols can vary.

1. Vacuum Thoroughly (Most Important Step)

- Vacuum all carpets, rugs, and upholstered furniture thoroughly.
- Pay special attention to areas where pets sleep or rest, under and between cushions, under furniture, along baseboards/skirting boards, inside closets, and in corners.
- Vacuum both sides of area rugs and pet resting spots.
- Immediately empty the vacuum bag or canister into a sealed plastic bag and dispose of it in an outdoor trash bin. This prevents eggs, larvae, or adults from escaping back into the home.
- Vacuuming also helps stimulate pupae to hatch, exposing them to the treatment.

2. Pet Bedding, Soft Furnishings & Laundry

- Wash all pet bedding, blankets, throws, and any washable soft furnishings pets use in hot water (ideally 60°C / 140°F or higher) and dry on high heat.
- If pet bedding is heavily infested or worn out, consider discarding it (seal in a plastic bag first).
- Wash bed linens, sheets, and pillowcases from beds where pets rest or sleep in hot water and dry on high heat.
- Wash any clothing or fabrics that have had significant contact with pets.

3. Clear Floors & Improve Access

- Remove all items from floors, including clothes, shoes, toys, pet toys, bowls, litter boxes, boxes, and storage items (including inside closets and under beds).
- Move light furniture away from walls (approximately 6–12 inches / 15–30 cm) where possible so the technician can treat baseboards and carpet edges.
- Clear pet sleeping areas and resting spots completely.

4. Treat Your Pets (Essential)

- Arrange for all pets (dogs, cats, and any other flea-susceptible animals) to be treated with a veterinarian-recommended flea product on the **same day** as the home treatment.
- This prevents pets from re-infesting the treated home.
- Remove all pets from the home during treatment.

5. Other Preparation

- Mop hard floors (wood, tile, vinyl) if recommended.
- Store or cover all exposed food, dishes, and utensils.
- Cover fish tanks/aquariums with a damp towel or plastic and turn off aerators/filters.
- Remove or secure birds, reptiles, small caged pets, and other sensitive animals.
- Clean outdoor pet areas if the exterior is also being treated (remove debris around doghouses, resting spots, etc.).

6. People, Pets & Safety

- Arrange for **all people and pets** to leave the home during treatment and remain out for the recommended re-entry time (commonly **4 hours**, or until surfaces are fully dry — confirm exact time with your technician).
- Inform the company in advance of any pregnancies, infants, allergies, asthma, respiratory issues, or other health sensitivities.
- Keep children, pets, and vulnerable people off treated surfaces until it is safe.

7. Important Do's and Don'ts

- **Do not** use any over-the-counter flea sprays, foggers, powders, or other pesticides before the appointment — these can interfere with the professional treatment.
- Complete all vacuuming, washing, and clearing **before** the technician arrives.
- Do not mop, wipe, or heavily clean treated surfaces immediately after treatment (this removes the residual product). Follow the technician's post-treatment guidance.
- After treatment, regular vacuuming (often daily or every 2–3 days for the first 1–2 weeks) is usually recommended to help stimulate remaining pupae to hatch and contact the residual insecticide.

8. After Treatment Notes

Some flea activity may continue for a short period as residual product works on newly hatching fleas. A follow-up treatment is often scheduled. Continue pet preventative treatments and maintain good hygiene (regular vacuuming and washing of pet bedding) to prevent re-infestation.

Always follow the specific written instructions provided by your service company. This checklist is a general guide based on standard professional recommendations.