
How to Make an Inexpensive Bed Bug Trap

By: Continental Carbonic

To remove a small population of bed bugs or test to see if you have any present, you can build an inexpensive trap, using 2-3 pounds of dry ice, a plastic pet food bowl, an insulated jug, tape, fabric, and talcum powder. This is best done at night when you can douse the lights in the room, as bed bugs prefer the dark.

Use a large pet food bowl of the type with sides that prevent it from tipping over. Apply any kind of fabric to the sides of the bowl with tape, to give the sides a rough surface that makes it easier for bed bugs to climb it. Turn the bowl over. This creates a moat or channel between the sides of the bowl and the upturned bottom of the bowl. Rub talcum powder on the insides of the moat so the bed bugs cannot escape once they've climbed into it.



On the upturned bottom of the bowl, place a large insulated beverage cup, or small cylindrical insulated jug. Using gloves, fill the container one-half full with dry ice. Leave the top open. DO NOT close the container or the dry ice could build up pressure. Turn off the lights and leave the room for an hour or more.

The concentration of CO₂, being given off by the dry ice, will attract bed bugs, which will crawl up the sides of the bowl, becoming trapped in the moat. The bed bugs are unable to crawl back up the sides of the upturned bowl due to the talcum powder, which makes them slide back down the sides. Depending on your container and the amount of dry ice you use, the trap could work for several hours.



Dry ice is extremely cold and should ALWAYS be handled using gloves. Read and follow [dry ice safety precautions](#) before handling dry ice