1. A method for decontaminating a mattress (14) or other effect of bed bugs comprising the steps of:

- Placing the mattress or other effect in a hermetically sealable container (10) of a size and shape commensurate with that of the mattress or other effect;
- Inserting an appropriate quantity of an oxygen scavenger (16) which in addition to utilizing oxygen on activation, generates heat and moisture into the container;
- Hermetically sealing the container so as to prevent ingress of oxygen; and
- Leaving it for a time sufficient for the oxygen levels to be depleted to less than 0.2% and the bed bugs and their eggs and larvae to be destroyed.

2. A method for decontaminating a mattress as claimed in claim 1 wherein the oxygen scavenger is provided in a pack.

3. A method for decontaminating a mattress as claimed in claim 2 wherein a plurality of packs are placed in the container.

4. A method as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein the oxygen scavenger comprises a ferrous material.

5. A method as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein the container comprises a flexible material (12).

6. A method as claimed in claim 5 wherein the material is a laminated sheet material.

7. A method as claimed in claim 6 which is laminated aluminium.

8. A method as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein the container is hermetically sealed using a heat sealing method.

9. A kit of parts for use in decontaminating a mattress (14) or other effect comprising

a sealable container (10), or a sheet like material (12) for forming a container, of a size and shape commensurate with that of the mattress or other effect; and one or a plurality of oxygen scavenger packs (16) characterized in that, which in addition to utilizing oxygen on activation, generates heat and moisture.

10. A kit as claimed in claim 9 further comprising one or more of an instruction sheet, a heat sealer and a label.

CLAIMS

1. A method for decontaminating a mattress (14) or other effect of bed bugs comprising the steps of:

- Placing the mattress or other effect in a hermetically sealable container (10) of a size and shape commensurate with that of the mattress or other effect;
- Inserting an appropriate quantity of an oxygen scavenger (16) which in addition to utilizing oxygen on activation, generates heat and moisture into the container;
- Hermetically sealing the container so as to prevent ingress of oxygen; and
- Leaving it for a time sufficient for the oxygen levels to be depleted to less than 0.2% and the bed bugs and their eggs and larvae to be destroyed.

2. A method for decontaminating a mattress as claimed in claim 1 wherein the oxygen scavenger is provided in a pack.

3. A method for decontaminating a mattress as claimed in claim 2 wherein a plurality of packs are placed in the container.

4. A method as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein the oxygen scavenger comprises a ferrous material.

5. A method as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein the container comprises a flexible material (12).

6. A method as claimed in claim 5 wherein the material is a laminated sheet material.

7. A method as claimed in claim 6 which is laminated aluminium.

8. A method as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein the container is hermetically sealed using a heat sealing method.

9. A kit of parts for use in decontaminating a mattress (14) or other effect comprising:

a sealable container (10), or a sheet like material (12) for forming a container, of a size and shape commensurate with that of the mattress or other effect; and

one or a plurality of oxygen scavenger packs (16)

characterized in that, which in addition to utilizing oxygen on activation, generates heat and moisture.

10. A kit as claimed in claim 9 further comprising one or more of an instruction sheet, a heat sealer and a label.