

## INSECT EXTERMINATION

### BEDBUGS

#### 1. GENERAL

1.01 This Section includes data covering the extermination of bedbugs and for minimizing infestation. Complete extermination of existing infestations is assured by application of the material and procedures specified if a systematic and persistent plan is employed. This Section does not apply to extermination of bedbugs from switchboards, terminal rooms and switchrooms.

1.02 Bedbugs breed somewhat rapidly and numerously. The eggs are deposited in crevices of upholstery and in other cracks of furniture and building trim at the rate of one to five eggs per day during the laying periods which are of two months duration. Four such broods are usually produced a year. Hatching of the eggs ordinarily requires from one to three weeks and the life span of the insect ranges from about eight to forty five weeks. Therefore if exterminating procedure does not destroy all of the eggs as well as the insects there is potential probability of reinfestation, aside from that of new coming insects, for some three weeks, through the hatching of undisturbed eggs.

1.03 Bedbugs feed exclusively upon blood, preferably human, and thus cannot be effectively exterminated by means of baits or poisons. Contact with kerosene is fatal to bedbugs and also destroys the eggs. The residue of kerosene remaining in crevices for some days or weeks following its application also serves to make the areas uninhabitable for the insects and unfavorable for egg development.

1.04 For buildings in certain localities where there is tendency for frequent annoyance from bedbugs a routine schedule of using the insecticide is helpful in greatly reducing or eliminating infestations.

#### 2. EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

2.01 Hand sprayer  
Bell System liquid insecticide  
Whisk broom and/or vacuum cleaner  
with upholstery tool.

#### 3. PROCEDURE

3.01 Partial dismantling of the furniture to be treated, i.e., removal of cushions and other sections which are readily removable without the aid of tools, should be done to insure thorough cleaning of the not readily accessible places affording

concealment for vermin. It also facilitates thorough application of the insecticide to the underneath sections and remote crevices. All pockets, tufting, pleating and crevices in the fabric and especially those points where the fabrics join the wood members should be thoroughly brushed and/or vacuum cleaned before applying the insecticide.

3.02 The liquid must come in contact with both the insects and the eggs to destroy them. Therefore when using the sprayer it should be directed to those places where the insects or eggs are likely to be, i.e., the points mentioned in 3.01 and also crevices in adjacent building trim and fittings, including picture moulding wainscoting, surbases, window and door frames. Picture frames shall be examined and treated if necessary. In the case of metal springs special attention should be given to the points where they connect to the angle irons and the liquid should also be directed into the hollow tubing of cots or furniture where accessible.

3.03 The sprayer should be adjusted to discharge a fine needle stream when used for crevices and a mist when treating wicker furniture, drapes, cushions, mattresses, cot springs, etc. The crevices should be thoroughly wet with the insecticide so as to penetrate into their remote points. However when using the mist on the flat or smooth surfaces it should not be applied sufficiently to wet them. This is especially to be avoided on those surfaces with which persons using the furniture come in contact as thorough evaporation of the liquid requires some five to ten hours or longer depending upon the ventilation.

3.04 It is not ordinarily advisable to remove the furniture from the room for treatment but in cases of very bad infestation, particularly with pieces such as wicker or others affording many places for concealment, removal to basement or roof quarters or other convenient locations is desirable. Such pieces should be very thoroughly sprayed and permitted to air for two or three days before returning to use.

3.05 In localities where continuous introduction of new insects is experienced a routine schedule of applying the liquid insecticide aids in controlling the situation. This is done by applying the insecticide every two to four weeks as described in 3.02, confining the activity, however, to the use of the fine stream in the crevices.

SECTION H51.130

3.06 Success in the extermination and prevention of insect conditions is greatly dependent upon a thorough and systematic plan of extermination as the insects readily locate and nest in any nearby crevices which have not been treated.

3.07 While the liquid insecticide is not hazardous to use from the standpoint of the effects of the vapor or mist upon human beings it should not be sprayed close to open flame.

4. CARE OF EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL

4.01 The liquid insecticide should be accorded the same care in handling and storage as paints. Supplies should be limited to one or two gallons and they should be kept clean to avoid possibility of stain to furnishings.

4.02 The sprayer should be emptied following use and kept in a clean and good operating condition.