

INSECT EXTERMINATION IN SWITCHBOARDS
(Including terminal and switchrooms)

1. GENERAL

1.01 The extermination of any insects from switchboards, terminal and switchrooms is covered by this Section. Fleas, gnats and similar insects are the types which usually cause annoyance. They are objectionable chiefly because of annoyance to the personnel rather than because of damage to the equipment or interference with the service. Roaches, bedbugs or ants may also get into equipment quarters and if so require special procedure or treatment supplementing that given in the Sections covering these types.

1.02 When exterminating activity is required in terminal and switchrooms or in switchboards it should be done only with the cooperation of the equipment maintenance forces.

1.03 No liquid type of insecticide shall be used in switchboards or in the vicinity of telephone equipment and it is important that any material used shall be chemically inert and electrically non-conductive to avoid possibility of damage or service interruption. Pyrethrum powder meets these requirements and while its effectiveness for vermin control is generally recognized it has the added desirable feature of being non-poisonous to human beings.

1.04 The insects which ordinarily may get into switchboards do not usually nest and breed in them but rather seek temporary refuge near their source of food, i.e., in the case of all but roaches and ants, blood from the persons upon which they alight. Their elimination therefore consists simply of specific treatments for reported conditions and the systematic procedures to care for the eggs and different life cycles described in the Sections covering extermination in general quarters are not normally required.

2. EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL

2.01 Powder bellows
Pyrethrum powder

3. PROCEDURE

3.01 The powder bellows should not be filled to more than one half capacity so that it will discharge it finely and sparingly. It is desirable where feasible to permit the powder to remain where applied, especially in the crevices, for a few days to discourage the return of insects dislodged by the treatment.

3.02 For fleas, gnats, mosquitoes and the like in switchboards the pyrethrum powder is blown into all crevices capable of affording concealment. It should not, however, be blown into or collect on jacks, keys, relays or other telephone apparatus.

3.03 For roaches in the switchboards the same treatment is used as described in 3.01 and 3.02 supplemented by sprinkling a thin line of blue colored sodium fluoride around the base of the switchboard in such manner that the roaches must pass through it when seeking food. The sodium fluoride is also permitted to remain for a few days, when possible, but it must be kept dry or its effectiveness will be lost. When roaches require extermination from terminal or switchrooms the procedure described in Section H51.129 Insect Extermination - Roaches is followed but care should be taken that none of the powder or its dust comes into contact with any telephone equipment.

3.04 Bedbugs are also eradicated from switchboards and vicinity by the procedure described in 3.01 and 3.02. However, in cases where the annoyance continues following this treatment it should be supplemented by spraying Bell System liquid insecticide into crevices in nearby building trim and also operators' chairs. The sprayer should be adjusted to deliver a fine stream rather than a mist for this work and care should be taken not to get any of the liquid on the switchboard equipment. In the event of bedbugs in terminal or switchrooms the procedure described in Section H51.130 Insect Extermination - Bedbugs is employed but it is important that the liquid spray does not come into contact with any telephone equipment. The sprayer should be adjusted only so as to discharge a fine stream which facilitates confining the application of the liquid to the crevices.

3.05 For flies and mosquitoes in terminal and switchrooms owing to the possibility of causing equipment troubles through the use of fly sprays objectionable conditions in these quarters should be cared for only by means of adequate screening or air filtering equipment.

3.06 Ant conditions are cared for in the manner described in Section H51.128 Insect Extermination - General.

4. CARE OF EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

4.01 The tools used should be kept clean and in good operating condition. Any powder remaining in the bellows after use should be removed and placed in a covered container. Any liquid should also be replaced in its container.

4.02 It is essential that both of the powders mentioned should be stored in a dry place in covered containers. The pyrethrum powder particularly loses its effectiveness on aging and supplies should be limited to a few weeks' requirements.