

INSECT EXTERMINATION

ROACHES

1. GENERAL

1.01 Data essential both for extermination of roaches and for reducing roach infestation probability are included in this Section. Complete extermination of existing infestations is assured by application of the material and procedures contained herein if a systematic and persistent plan is pursued. This Section does not take precedent over any conflicting local ordinances involving materials or personnel employed for roach extermination. It also does not apply to extermination of roaches from switchboards, terminal rooms and switchrooms.

1.02 Exterminating services of any kind in cafeteria quarters are carried on only with the cooperation of the Traffic Department.

1.03 Only sodium fluoride that is colored blue should be used. The blue color serves to identify the material and to prevent its inadvertently being mixed with or applied on foods. Substantial quantities, if taken internally may prove poisonous to human beings and the precautions accorded to poisons should attend its use.

1.04 There are several varieties of roaches which differ as to size and color but all are exterminated in the same manner. Roaches are relatively slow in reproductive rate requiring about one year per generation and only some eight to twelve are produced at a time. It is because of their cleverness in concealing themselves rather than rapid reproduction which accounts for their prevalence. They normally confine their feeding and activities to periods of darkness and often avoid detection for a long time unless surprised such as in switching on a light.

1.05 The nuisance of roach infestations can be greatly reduced if not removed entirely by keeping the premises free from attractive substances, capable of being utilized for food, as roaches will not remain unless they have access to foodstuffs. In general the same foods used by human beings are acceptable to roaches but they will also feed on almost any dirty accumulations or residues.

1.06 Roaches are classified as a filthy insect in that they nest in remote places, preferably unclean crevices. They exude a dark colored oily fluid which is of disagreeable odor and accumulates in the nests and on their runways, i.e., paths to and from sources of food. They favor warm, moist and dark places and thus are more

likely found underneath sinks and about water piping, kitchen equipment and in basement quarters.

2. EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

2.01 Powder bellows.
Blue colored sodium fluoride powder.

3. PROCEDURE

3.01 Sodium fluoride, colored blue is used for exterminating roaches. When it is used in dining service quarters the work should be performed only in the presence of the Chief Matron.

3.02 Thorough attention to cleanliness in and about kitchens, dining rooms, locker rooms, basement quarters and other points where foodstuffs are kept or where warmth and dampness prevail is the most effective means for elimination. Annoying infestations in general offices are sometimes promoted by the storing of foods or candies in desk drawers. This also applies to employees' lockers.

3.03 It is not necessary to place the sodium fluoride on the roaches as the material ordinarily gets into the stomach of the insect by the habit of passing their legs and feelers through the mouth following their walking on the powder. The action of sodium fluoride is not quick as some hours and possibly days elapse from the time of contact with the material before death occurs but contact is almost invariably fatal.

3.04 A powder bellows should be used for spreading the sodium fluoride. The bellows distributes the powder sparingly and in finer condition thus securing maximum effectiveness when it is filled not more than half full. The powder should be spread in the form of a light dust and permitted to remain for some days or longer, where feasible, as its effectiveness continues for some time if kept dry. The powder should not be spread in such manner as to get on foods, food containers, dishes, kitchen utensils and equipment and no residue should be permitted to remain where it can come in contact with these items.

3.05 Since roaches hide in obscure cracks and crevices the application of the exterminating powder (sodium fluoride) to these places is most effective. However, it is often impossible to reach the most remote hiding places but spreading the powder on the areas over which the roach must pass in search of food will result in ultimate extermination. After all crevices

have been treated, distribute a thin line of the powder along the edges of floors and on horizontal sections of the piping underneath sinks but only where there are no underlying shelves or other places where equipment or utensils are stored.

3.06 Sodium fluoride may also be used as a preventative in cafeterias, garbage vaults, waste paper vaults, storerooms and in basement quarters susceptible to infestation by distributing a thin line around the edges of the floor and on pipes, etc.

4. CARE OF EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL

4.01 It is necessary that the tool used for applying the powder shall be kept clean and dry and in good operating condition. Any remaining in the bellows following its use should be removed and placed in a covered container.

4.02 Sodium fluoride is adversely affected by moisture; therefore all supplies should be kept in a dry place.

4.03 All tools and supplies of insect powder should be stored outside of dining service quarters, storerooms or other places where food is kept.