A Perspective on the RMP

Andrew Gunther, Ph.D
Member, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
www.andrewgunther.com
Russ Flegal

Bob Risebrough
DDT comes home

BY ELEANOR L. COOK

DDT is the atomic bomb of insecticides—short for dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane, a chemical salt in brilliant form, and available as a liquid or powder preparation or in aerosol form. DDT is still in an experimental stage as far as civilian use is concerned. New facts about its use are being discovered daily. It is the deadliest of 2000 chemicals listed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. No other product can do such a job without leaving possible residues.

It must be remembered that DDT is a poison—a contact poison as well as a stomach or intestinal poison. So it cannot be used casually on the many fly sprays advertised these days. A little goes a long way in clearing up pests and preventing infestation. It can even be used in disposing of household pests.

How it works

The fumes required to kill bugs after contact with DDT is the same as for any other insecticide. It is the slow content of the insecticidal sprays which have used until today. When sprayed against insects, DDT kills them by contact alone. There is no trace found on the treated area. The breath taken down into the DDT vaporize then taken back into the body.

How to use

The crystal bottle should be directed into the air, not against any surface. The capacity is one of trichloroethylene which has used until today. When sprayed against insects, DDT kills them by contact alone. There is no trace found on the treated area. The breath taken down into the DDT vaporize then taken back into the body.

How long will the effect last?

That depends primarily upon the concentration of DDT. Read labels to be sure the product contains: Pesticide . . . . 10% DDT Spread . . . . 15% DDT Aerosol bottle . . . 33% DDT with added pyrethrum

CAUTIONS: Do not use DDT on food; on surfaces where food is prepared; on clothing or bedding which touches the skin. Do not use powder on surfaces to which children have access. Do not use all sprays near flame or while smoking, and be sure to wash your hands after use.

Out-of-doors insects—about 20% DDT powder—about 15% per pound. Don't use all sprays near flames or when smoking. For more lasting effects, spray surfaces that impede light upon it. For example, use a 20% DDT powder under sheltered spots or picnic table, or in the garden, or in the room with the infestation.

Cockroaches and ants—about 10% DDT powder gives them in a week if dusted around their haunts. As an extra measure use a 5% DDT oil spray under sheltered areas, on cracks, etc.

Nocturne—Use a 5% DDT oil spray on all inside surfaces of closets or trunks after removing clothing. For use on upholstery, do not spray any more than necessary.
Russ Flegal

Bob Risebrough
Research Vessel

David Johnston
“Modification of an Estuary” Nichols et al. 1986
Collecting Mussels at Bodega Head  c.1994