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# HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE  
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SUBJECT: "Up In The Aerosol!" information from entomologists of the U. S.  
Department of Agriculture

During the war...they coined the name "aerosol bomb" for a new weapon against insects. From Alaska to Africa and from other parts of the world...our boys brought back word of the so-called aerosol bombs. Thanks to this weapon...they were able to rid their quarters of flies and mosquitoes and other flying insects.

Now that peace has come...those of us at home are able to get aerosol bombs.

Like any other weapon...there's a proper way to use aerosols to get the best effect. But first let me explain the nature of the aerosol. The term "bomb" really refers to the container. It looks like a bomb. But it doesn't explode. The aerosol itself consists of an insecticide...dissolved in liquified gas under pressure. When you open the valve...the sudden change in pressure causes the insecticide to disperse in the air. It goes all about the room like a fog or a mist.

(Though it's called a bomb...an insecticidal aerosol acts more like anti-aircraft fire. Small particles of the insecticide scatter through the air. They hit the flies and mosquitoes and moths flying about. And they kill the insects by coming in contact with'em.)

The aerosol bombs used by the armed forces...and most of the bombs now on the market...contain a mixture of DDT and purified pyrethrum.

Now...how can you best use the aerosol bomb? Entomologists say it's most highly effective against insects in their flying stage. Against flies...sandflies...mosquitoes and moths.

Don't use aerosols to try to get rid of crawling insects...bedbugs...roaches... dog ticks. Don't expect aerosols to act as fumigants. Don't use aerosol treatment to try to get rid of the egg or larval stages of clothes moths...carpet beetles and meal moths. You'll find other methods of control are more effective for these purposes...and they cost less.

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