

## BUGS ON A BOAT?

By

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Q: What can be done to prevent and get rid of bugs on the boat?

A: Cockroaches, spiders, rats, weevils, mosquitoes, no-see-ums, and bees are unpleasant invaders and even more so on the boat. Here are suggestions for preventions and eviction of these pesky critters:

- Cockroaches like to eat the glue of the cardboard boxes and paper labels where they will lay their eggs. Never bring cardboard on to the boat. Transfer from the cardboard boxes to reusable shopping bags prior to boarding a boat. To get rid of the cockroaches, sprinkle a sugar cube with boric acid and place it on the aluminum foil. That should do it.
- When a boat has not been used for too long, spiders will set up their webs. Cleaning and vacuuming your boat monthly will prevent and treat this problem.
- Rats are the most dangerous because they can eat the vinyl coating off your wires and cause electrical short circuit and even a fire. Use a large plastic funnel on your dock lines and shore power cord near the boat to prevent the rats from coming aboard. Use rat traps with warfarin- based poison to kill the rats once they are onboard. Check traps regularly as the dead rats can stink up the boat.
- Weevils like grains, such as flour and pasta products. Sealing these products in vacuum packed or Ziploc bags with a bay leaf, will prevent the weevil invasion. Once the weevils are already there, you can microwave the grains for 5 minutes to kill them.
- Mosquitoes and no-see-ums like to come out at dusk and dawn. Use bug screens at hatches, portholes, and doorways. There is a magnetic screen available on-line that seems to be popular with the cruisers. Avoid any open stagnant water. Even a capful is enough to breed their eggs. DEET and Repel lemon eucalyptus tree bark oil sprays work really well for prevention. You can even spray it in your boat.
- Bees can sting and even be fatal if you are allergic to them. They are usually attracted to garbage and open food. Make sure your garbage cans have lids on them. You can buy or make a bee trap for your boat. It is a water bottle with wholes in it filled with colored sugar water. Bees get in, but cannot get out. Make sure you have an Epi pen if you have allergies to bee stings. Your family doctor can prescribe it.