

PROTECTING TRUCK BEDS AGAINST RUST AND CHEMICALS

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The rust problems associated with vehicles used in ground ultra low volume (ULV) applications of pesticides have been experienced by all mosquito control districts. Many have installed fiberglass bed liners, used special paints and even removed the truck-beds. The Georgetown County Mosquito Control Program treated ULV trucks with a rust undercoating product BODY SCHUTZ® available at most automobile parts stores. The vehicles were treated during the early spring of 1985. No major rust problems were observed during the spray season of 1985. The beds also remained rust-free through 1986.

The procedure is to remove or treat the existing rust on vehicles and apply the product to the vehicle bed. The material dries rapidly and usually sets in 24 hours. A special application gun

can be purchased and attached to a standard air compressor. Estimated material cost is approximately \$30.00 per vehicle and application is very easy. A quarter ton truck needs five quarts of material.

The material was very resistant to the chemicals used (dibrom, resmethrin, malathion) in ground ULV work and even resisted simulated spills. The material is susceptible to scratching and denting, and care should be taken to avoid these problems. We plan to apply an additional coat to each vehicle in 1987, for added protection, but a single coat may last for many years.

The material has also proven excellent on other metal surfaces, toolboxes, pipes, etc., and may even be useful for protecting aircraft applying chemicals.