Product Information Sheet

Constrain®

For the control of insect pests in museums, archives, historic houses and domestic properties.



Constrain is a micro-emulsion, water-based insecticide spray, for the control of flying and crawling insect pests found in historic, artistic and scientific collections. It is also suitable for use in domestic properties.

- ✓ For control of a wide range of insect pests: wood borers, clothes moths, carpet beetles, biscuit beetles, silverfish and book lice etc.
- ✓ For use indoors
- ✓ Household friendly
- ✓ Fast acting
- ✓ Odourless (when dry) and non-staining
- ✓ Water-based, non-flammable formula
- ✓ Use to protect surfaces and spray directly on insects
- ✓ HSE Approved (HSE 10297)

Available as 1 Litre Trigger Spray and 5L Refill.

General directions for use

It is always advised and recommended to first test a small amount on an inconspicuous area to be treated. Turn the end of the nozzle to open spray. Pump trigger to spray. Keep container vertical where possible and spray steadily approximately 20-30cm (9 – 12 inches) from affected area. Apply a light, even spray at a rate of 20-50ml per m^2. This is equivalent to 1 Litre per 20 - 50 m^2. Do not saturate or over apply to the surface.

Constrain has been tested for its efficacy as a residual insecticide and for application directly onto insects. It has also been evaluated for potential for damaging delicate materials, and found to have no noticeable effect on all the materials tested including textiles, paper, wood, metals etc. It did not change the appearance of colours or textures of the materials tested, did not encourage metallic corrosion and was rapidly absorbed into porous objects. However, do not spray directly onto fabric unless you are sure a light spray will not affect the fabric. Always test a small area first.

Controlling fabric insect pests

Fabric moths and beetles like dark places. Eggs and larvae are most often found around the edges of a room and beneath heavy or long-standing furniture, so focus application of Constrain to these areas. Apply a light spray around the sides of rooms, the underside of rugs, inside surfaces of wardrobes and drawers (with clothes removed) and between floorboards where gaps exist. Leave the deposit to dry before reusing area. Avoid cleaning the treated area as vacuuming will remove the protective residue. Move furniture away from walls (e.g. beds) as required to treat the hidden areas. Repeat treatment regularly. This period will vary depending on the amount of use or traffic and area receives. High use areas will require more treatment but should also be less vulnerable to attack by fabric pests.

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Additional recommendations to aid the control of clothes moth

Vacuum as much as possible. Inspect all clothes, rugs and carpets. Any material with possible larval presence, should be taken outside and thoroughly shaken (or shaken inside followed by a quick vacuum). Launder all clothes – to eliminate most of the larvae and insects -putting in a wash on as high a temperature as the items will withstand. High temperatures will kill moths and their young. Some fabrics cannot be washed and for those items, consider freezing. Seal in a plastic bag and put in a freezer (-20°C) for 2 weeks. The cold temperatures will kill eggs, larvae and adult stages. Vacuum before you put any clothes or fabrics back into their normal storage areas – including wardrobes and drawers etc. Once used, take the machine outside, remove the dust container, seal contents in a plastic bag and place in the household waste. Remember, larvae can survive on dust.

For taxidermy specimens

Prevention is better than cure. To protect historic specimens or new projects spray with Constrain to ensure your mount is kept insect free while left unattended. We recommend a light spray in March, June and September when insects will be most active and producing eggs and those damaging larvae.

For wood borers

Constrain can be used as a remedial treatment of timber and wooden objects against wood destroying insects. Apply Constrain directly onto the wood surface either by brush, direct from the trigger pack, or by injecting into emergence holes. Uptake and drying time will depend on the nature of the timber. It is advisable to try on a small inconspicuous area before application to ensure product finish is as expected. Wood should be clean and free from dust and other contaminants. Varnish and paint finishes will impede uptake. Constrain is effective against all life stages of wood boring insects. The formulation is water-based producing a non-flammable, quick drying product and should be suitable for over coating after 24 hours. Remove product from brushes with tissue and wash with soap and clean water.

Constrain contains 0.1% cypermethrin (insecticide) and 0.1% benzalkonium chloride (surfactant)

Precautions: Follow all label recommendations and instructions. The following highlights some main points: Take care not to contaminate foodstuffs, eating utensils or food contact surfaces. Do not apply directly to animals and exclude animals during application. Allow any deposit to dry fully before readmitting animals to treated areas. Do not handle treated fabrics until dry and air dry thoroughly before use. Wash hands and exposed skin before meals and after use.

Storage, disposal and Shelf Life: Store in original container. Keep in a frost free, safe place, away from food and drink and out of the reach of children. Constrain is very toxic to aquatic life. Surplus insecticide should be disposed at a a licenced waste disposal site. Constrain and its container must be disposed of in a safe way. Dispose of clean empty container in normal household waste. The container is marked with the expiry date. Use within 2 years.

Historyonics Social and Environmental Commitment

We are committed to ensuring our business delivers societal benefits in improving the internal and external environments in which we live and work. We equally encourage our clients to consider carefully which products are purchased, how they are used and ultimately disposed. Please order only what you need and ensure that products and packaging materials are recycled or reused where possible. Contact info@historyonics.com should you require more information.

By Appointment to
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