



***“Addressing the issue of
Bugs/Insects and Pests
in Trains”***

Collective inputs from over 65,000 Citizens in circle

“Make Railways Better”

(Current State, Issues, Root Causes and Proposed Solutions)

January 03, 2015



Bugs/Insects and Pests in Trains

Executive Summary

Indian Railways does the big job of carrying millions of passengers every year from all strata of society from one point to another. But there are some key areas that need immediate improvement and one of them is eliminating Bugs/Insects and Pests from Trains. The 65,000+ strong “Making Railways Better” online community has come together to collectively identify the key issues, root causes and solutions for Bugs/Insects and Pests in Trains in India and the community expects that the Government will work towards implementing the identified solutions.

Issues identified:

1. Cockroaches and rats can be found everywhere in the train
2. Both general and AC coaches smell of rodents
3. Pest control companies who are given the contracts do not do a good job
4. Bed bugs are found in pillows and blankets provided
5. The pantry car is dirty and has insects running all around
6. Insects being found in the food in the train is a common sight
7. The quality of wood and fabric used attracts bugs
8. Lot of mosquitoes are found in AC compartments
9. Insects are a common sight in toilets

Root Causes Identified

1. Floors and bogies are not cleaned properly
2. No supervision of the cleaning staff
3. Cleanliness standards set for the railway cleaning employees to follow are very low
4. Lack of accountability of cleaning staff
5. The sense of cleanliness and hygiene among the general public is missing
6. Quality of pest control products used is not up to the mark
7. Passengers keep throwing/dropping eatables inside the trains which attracts insects
8. Not enough dustbins on the stations and inside the train
9. Beddings are old and are not washed properly
10. Food is kept on the floor inside and outside the pantry car
11. A large number of people use the toilets and hence keeping them clean is a big task
12. Bins are not cleared regularly which attracts more insects



Solutions Identified:

1. Pest control should be done in all trains at least twice a month
2. Railways should enlist the help of professional and reputed pest control companies
3. Fumigation should be done after regular intervals
4. Cleaning and dry-cleaning work of the beddings and pillows should be outsourced to private contractors
5. Like in a plane, safety and cleanliness demonstration should be done in trains too with monitors, posters, announcements, etc.
6. Graphics and videos should be put up on stations to educate passengers about keeping the stations and the trains clean
7. The cleaning staff should be strictly supervised
8. High standards should be set for the cleaning staff with guidance and proper demonstration
9. Outsource housekeeping and cleaning services to private companies
10. Mounted dustbins should be installed on each door in every coach
11. Dustbins should be cleared on every alternate station
12. A cleaning and dustbin attendant in every coach must travel with the train
13. Toilets should be cleaned on every major station
14. Toilets should stay closed while the train is on the station
15. Toilets should be redesigned
16. Pantry car should be kept absolutely clean
17. Food should not be kept on the floor
18. A pantry car cleaning attendant must travel with the train pantry
19. The design of many coaches is more than 100 years old; should be re-designed for hygiene and cleanliness
20. The water leakage in AC coaches should be controlled
21. Doors and windows have to be kept closed once the train is at yard

Bugs/Insects and Pests in Trains – user posts and comments:

1. After one single journey all compartments of the train should be cleaned properly. For this sufficient halting time should be provided at destination point. However at present this is not the situation as most of the trains leave within 2-3 hrs of reaching the destination – **Srinivas S**
2. We have complained many times about the bed sheet cleaning. Sometime contractor do not wash just fold them in nice paper bags. It is for sure that railway administrator also hand to glove with contractors – **Mukesh Sodhia**
3. Invariably during all my travels I observed rodents, bedbugs and cockroaches freely roaming in the compartment. I do not believe that the compartments are disinfected



of any standard! Many a times the bags we carry were damaged badly by the rodents in the compartment. Passengers carrying and eating food items could be one reason for this rodent. Apart from proper disinfection, Railways should try to eliminate the very root cause of this problem - ie discourage passengers from carrying their own food items. To encourage this behaviour, the prime requirement is to make available quality food within reasonable price in the compartment. This will discourage to a large extent the problem of rodents. Other things like proper disinfection, good house-keeping, regular cleaning, washing etc., can follow –

Chandrasekaran Manni

4. It is a common habit of travelling public to throw wastes (viz. used tea/coffee cups, food covers & packs, used paper plates) inside the compartment. These attract insects & pests. It is hard to educate all passengers. One way of reducing these wastes to be strewn outside along the track and within the compartment is by placing waste collecting bags on each end of the compartment. To start, at-least 10% of passengers could use this facility. As, people watch, more people will start using the waste collecting bags – **Barathan R**
5. I think at this time we are not talking about tracks. The subject is Bugs/Insects in train. About bugs/insects railway has to take action as well as it is their duty also to educate passengers by media, posters, advertisements in papers as well as by showing short clips at all stations on TV about what they should do and what not , their rights , in case of complaints where and to whom contact etc. All this will help in reducing problems at least to 50% - **Y N Gupta**
6. A daily use of cockroach spray will help the passengers to have a clean and hygienic journey, without feeling bothered by cockroaches. This is irrespective of whether the train has a luggage compartment or not – **R Mallya**
7. There are rats in all the trains, even in the AC coaches & many times we have seen them moving around & at times our bags with eatables have been damaged. on the tracks there are plenty of them. unhygienic conditions are the problems of our trains & stations – **Sridhar Magal**
8. The insects bugs and pests are often found during night while the passengers sleeping, It is advisable to keep the every compartment clean and tidy night times water supply should be continua's the upper class attenders should take care this In every station. Most of the times the attenders will sleep by 10 p.m – **Rajeswari Kakarla**
9. I had read somewhere that Railways is installing "Controlled Discharged Toilets" - where the waste is discharged on the platform only after the train reaches a particular speed, and "Zero Discharge Toilets" where the waste is not discharged on the platform. Once these get implemented, we will surely see a big improvement in coach and station hygiene. Any idea when these will get implemented? – **Karthik Ganeshan**