

For release
March 13, 1941

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Icing! Everyone knows that under certain conditions ice is formed on the propellers and wings of airplanes. It reduces efficiency of the propeller, increases the load to the wings and deforms them, and finally may make the plane unmanageable. Icing also has serious effects on the instruments, as when ice forms on the mouths of the tubes leading to the speed and flight indicators and the gyro instruments. This may occur, and often does, just at the time when they are urgently required for the proper handling of the plane. Icing the intake of the carburetor also causes the engine to function badly. De-icers correct much of this trouble.
