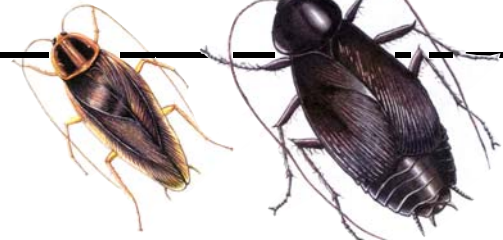


COCKROACHES

Pest Control Factsheet



German cockroach

Oriental cockroach

Cockroaches have existed for millions of years and there are many species around the world. About six of these have become closely associated with man and are very widespread. The most commonly found in this country are the German cockroach and the Oriental cockroach. They are very successful as they eat almost anything, breed rapidly and tolerate a wide range of conditions.

Description

- **German cockroach** - This species grows up to 15 mm and is light golden brown in colour. It prefers warm, humid conditions and climbs even smooth surfaces easily. The young (or nymphs) look very similar to the adults as they grow.
- **Oriental cockroach** - This species is larger, up to 25 mm long and dark brown in colour. It is found in cooler, less humid areas like basements and drains. It can climb rough but not smooth surfaces. Nymphs are similar to adults as they grow.

Life Cycle

- **German cockroach** - Females lay egg cases that contain up to 30 eggs. These hatch and the nymphs feed and grow by moulting their skins. This takes 5 months or more and the adults then live for up to 6 months.
- **Oriental cockroach** - Females lay egg cases that contain up to 16 eggs. These hatch and the nymphs grow by moulting but this takes from 10 months to 2 years. The adults live for up to 9 months.

Importance

- Cockroaches spread disease by contaminating our food and coming into contact with work surfaces and utensils used for food preparation.
- They eat our food but spoil much more with their droppings, cast skins and dead bodies.
- They breed rapidly and can easily be spread from one place to another.

Getting the Problem Under Control

- Our Officers will provide the professional help needed.
- They will inspect the property to determine the extent of the problem.
- Treatment will be carried out, normally using a bait that cockroaches find very attractive.

Advice for Clients

The Officer carrying out treatment for you will explain what has been done and point out things you need to do or ways in which you can help us to control the cockroach problem.

Proofing

- Replace missing tiles in the kitchen and bathroom.
- Make sure tiling is grouted properly.
- Seal gaps around door and window frames, skirting boards, worktops and electrical sockets with mastic sealant.
- Replace broken electrical sockets.

Hygiene

Do all you can to remove sources of food for the cockroaches: -

- Clear up after every meal and don't leave food lying around, especially overnight.
- Keep lids on waste bins and empty them regularly.
- Clean regularly, especially in the kitchen. Move kitchen equipment and clean beneath.

Housekeeping

- Use jars or sealed containers for packaged or loose food.
- Keep cupboards and drawers tidy, check inside boxes and throw out unwanted items.