

COCKROACH

What Do Cockroaches Look Like?

The German Cockroach is the species most commonly found in North America. The adult is 5/8 inch long, light brown in color with wings which cover the abdomen. There are 2 prominent black stripes just behind the head. Immature stages (nymphs) are smaller, wingless and have a pale stripe running lengthwise down the middle of their darker brown body.



What is Their History?

The cockroach is mainly an indoor insect. They prefer locations that provide food, moisture, warmth and shelter (eg: kitchens, bathrooms, garbag). Cockroaches are mainly active at night and hide in cracks and crevices during the day. Females produce an egg capsule attached to the end of their abdomen about 5/16 inch long, with 30-40 eggs. Eggs hatch 2-4 days releasing nymphs.

Cockroaches feed on a wide variety of foods and are most abundant where food is stored.



Why Are Cockroaches A Problem?

Cockroaches infest and contaminate foods and carry organisms that can cause disease. They may produce an odour. Some people have allergic reactions to cockroaches or cockroach residues (eg: feces, body extracts).

How Do I Know If I Have A Cockroach Problem?

If you see cockroaches during the day it is usually a sign of a heavy infestation. Traps can be used to determine if you have cockroaches (eg: sticky traps).



You can prepare your own trap by painting or wrapping a mason jar; coat the inside with petroleum jelly and placing some food at the bottom.

How Do I Control Cockroaches?

- ◆ Check boxes of foods for Cockroaches. Cockroaches can be brought into your home in egg cases, beer and soft drink cases. especially boxes or bags of food.
- ◆ Inspect second-hand clothes, furniture and appliances carefully before bringing into your home.
- ◆ Cleaning and housekeeping to remove any food sources. Regularly clean behind the stove and under refrigerator.
- ◆ If using a vacuum cleaner, be sure to remove and discard the bag after use.
- ◆ Keep foods in plastic or glass containers with lids.
- ◆ Remove paper boxes, piles of paper bags and newspapers, clothing.
- ◆ Store garbage in sealed containers and dispose of garbage regularly.
- ◆ Repair leaky faucets and pipes; ventilate bathrooms in order to reduce excess moisture.

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Adapted from:

Effective Control of Cockroaches, Health Canada;
AgriLife Extension, Texas; U of A Insect Pests of the
Prairies.

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Photo from AgriLife Extension