

GERMAN COCKROACHES



DESCRIPTION

German Cockroaches are $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{5}{8}$ inches long when mature. They are light brown to tan in colour and have fully developed wings. The pronotum (i.e. shell-like segment behind the head) has two dark parallel bars on it. The adult males are somewhat narrower than the females when viewed from below. The nymphs, $\frac{1}{8}$ inches long when they emerge from the egg capsule, are almost uniformly dark except for a light tan area in the back of the second and third segments. As they develop, the light tan area becomes larger until, as mature nymphs, they have two parallel black bars separated by a light tan area. The purse-shaped egg capsule of the German

Cockroach is light brown in color, $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch-long and typically has 30 - 48 eggs per side.

HABITS

German Cockroaches are the most common household insect within the United States and Canada. This pest typically infests kitchens and bathrooms but will live anywhere inside heated structures for food, water and harbourage. German Cockroaches gain entry into structures in bags, cardboard boxes, drink cartons, or infested equipment such as used refrigerators, toasters, microwaves etc. These cockroaches feed on all types of human food as well as on pet food, toothpaste, soap, glue, etc.

German Cockroaches are active in the dark, leaving their harbourage sites to find food and water. They remain hidden in their dark, secluded harbourage areas (under cupboards, behind cabinets, in wall voids, and around motor housings in appliances) where they spend approximately 75% of their time.

CONTROL

As German Cockroaches are typically brought into structures as opposed to migrating themselves, potentially infested products should be closely inspected. Many types of cardboard and plastic traps are available to help pinpoint sources of cockroach infestation and to monitor areas which occupants have complained but infestations cannot be visually detected. Sticky traps are not intended for control but, rather, to guide and evaluate control efforts as part of the inspection process.



An effective cockroach management program depends on good sanitation to eliminate food, water and harbourage they need for survival. Clean-up to reduce cockroaches in the home and office environment must focus mainly on the food residue in and around coffee machines, microwave ovens, stoves, refrigerators, trash cans, furniture and areas where exposed food is stored. It is critical to reduce clutter, as cockroaches like to hide in stacked boxes and locations near food. Vacuum cleaning can be used to physically remove exposed cockroaches. Permanent reduction of cockroach populations can be achieved by caulking to eliminate harbourage areas. The most important cracks to eliminate include those in which sinks and fixtures are mounted to the wall and/or floor, around all types of plumbing, baseboard moulding and corner guards where shelves and cabinets meet walls and door frames as well as cracks on or near food preparation surfaces.

Cockroach access routes between apartments and from wall voids and around plumbing and electrical fixtures should be sealed with caulk or grout. Basement floor drains should be protected with screens or basket inserts which should be cleaned regularly.

Residual spray should be applied to ALL cracks, crevices and around baseboards throughout the home. Read the label before using ANY product. Even if activity has not been detected within a room, precautions should be taken with a thorough spray treatment of the entire home or business. Also, you should apply insect dust to various cracks and crevices throughout the building. Harbourage areas (under fridge and stove, cracks, crevices, pipe chases, around the toilets and under the kitchen bathroom sinks) should be treated. Once the treatment is done, you must vacate the home for at least 4-6 hours. Infants, seniors and people with asthma or health issues should stay away longer.

Gel baits are also used to control cockroaches; however, sanitation plays an important factor to ensure the cockroaches consume the bait. Gel baits are not as effective at eliminating larger populations.

Chemically treat the home until only a few cockroaches are seen, then only gel baits, do not chemically treat once gel bait has been placed. Repeat every 7 – 10 days until no cockroach evidence is seen.