



# Customer Bulletin

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## Cockroaches are Everywhere!

Cockroaches are insects of the order Blattodea, of which about 25-30 species out of 4,600 total are associated with human habitations. Three of the most common are the German cockroach, *Blattella germanica*, which tends to live and breed indoors, and the American cockroach, *Periplaneta americana*, and the Oriental cockroach, both of which prefer both living and breeding outdoors. Cockroaches are one of the most commonly noted household pest insects. They feed on human and pet food, and can leave an offensive odor. They can also passively transport microbes on their body surfaces including those that are potentially dangerous to humans, particularly in environments such as hospitals and nursing homes, and are linked to allergic reactions in humans. Cockroaches are among the hardiest insects on the planet. Cockroaches are thought to be about 350 million years old, making them one of the oldest surviving creatures.



### German

Very hardy and resilient; can emit an unpleasant odor when frightened.

3/4-1 inch long with two dark longitudinal lines on the plate behind their head.



### GERMAN:

- Winged, but do not fly.
- Adults live about 100-200 days with females living longer than males.
- Prefer cracks, usually less than .5 inch.
- Generally forage within inches to a few feet from their harborage.
- Population numbers are severely limited by the amount of available harborage.
- Adults can survive about 2 weeks without food or water.
- They can transmit disease organisms and cause allergic reactions in some people.

This is the fastest reproducing species of pest cockroaches. A single female and her offspring can produce over 30,000 individuals within a year. She may produce about 5 egg capsules (30-40 eggs each) in her life, and is very active when reproducing. Development time varies, but is usually 3 months. It can also be faster, producing 3-4 or more generations per year. Starting with one pair of adults, in a year, under favorable conditions (with no predators and assuming a 50% mortality before reaching adult stage), you could have about 14,000 cockroaches!



### American

Considered one of the fastest running insects.

### AMERICAN:

- About 1-2 inches long.
- Active fliers.
- Adults live about one year.

American cockroaches prefer to feed on decaying organic matter. The adults can survive two or three months without food, but only about a month without water. Starting with one pair of adults, in a year, under favorable conditions, you would still have the one pair of adults and a few nymphs.

### Oriental

Often called "waterbugs" since they prefer moist places.



### ORIENTAL:

- One to one-half inch long.
- Female, short stubs for wings.
- Males, wings cover about 3/4 of abdomen.
- Adults live less than six months.

Oriental cockroaches feed on all kinds of filth and if water is available, they can live for a month without food, but die within two weeks without water. Starting with one pair of adults, in a year, under favorable conditions, you could have about 300 cockroaches.

## ROACHES ARE NOCTURNAL. ARE YOU SEEING ROACHES IN THE DAY TIME?

You either have (1) a very large population of roaches in overcrowded harborages or (2) a harborage has been disturbed.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO TO LIMIT COCKROACHES

#### Don't invite roaches into your home or business

- Cockroaches can sneak in with paper products, packaging and used appliances. Inspect bags or boxes of groceries brought into the home or shipments brought into your business.
- A vacuum hose is effective in removing roaches or their capsules.

#### Don't feed roaches

- Store food in sealed containers. Never leave food, crumbs or trash uncovered anywhere. Clean up any food debris and do not allow it to sit overnight; do not leave uneaten pet food out overnight. If you must leave dirty dishes, put them in the sink and cover them with soapy water.
- Use trash cans with tight fitting lids. Avoid placing trash under the sink. Empty trash cans often. Put garbage in closed plastic bags.

#### Don't give roaches water

- Fix leaky faucets and drains

### HOW WESTERN SOLVES YOUR PEST PROBLEMS

- We consult with you to identify areas of concern and past pest history.
- We make a thorough inspection of all areas and assess any conducive conditions that put your property at risk for a pest invasion.
- Our trained specialist makes a positive pest ID to insure that the treatment program we recommend will eliminate your specific nuisance pest problems.
- We implement a unique program suited explicitly for your property using all of the necessary pest management tools proven most effective for the infestations identified.
- Finally, our continued monitoring, documentation, and communication with you by our pest management professionals ensure the ongoing effectiveness of our service.



WORKING TOGETHER WE CAN KEEP COCKROACHES OUT OF YOUR HOME AND BUSINESS

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