

Cockroaches Fact Sheet

A common pest invasion that homeowners all over the globe suffer from is that of cockroaches.

These much-hated insects are known to thrive in warm and unclean places that suit their liking for unhygienic areas. Though they might seem harmless at first owing to the fact that they do not bite like most pests, they can be quite a threat to well-being of humankind owing to the kind of germs they are carriers of.



These disgusting pests are known to be the cause of diseases like asthma and E.Coli because of their horrible nature of running over eatables, cutlery, the dining or kitchen area while leaving trails of excreta, shedding of skin and germ-filled saliva over everything they come in contact with.

Not to mention they are efficient in spreading germs from your bathroom drains to your eatables in no time with their tendency to crawl over everything in their sight.

For those that are disgusted with the lizard being able to grow a new tail after losing one, the fact of roaches being able to live for a week without their head can be much more horrifying.

Not only will these pesky creatures eat your plants but also assume their rights over tasting your food before you can yourself while drawing many more pests to your home or office by making the surrounding much dirtier than it already was.

Identification

Cockroaches have about 3500 different types that infest the world one home at a time and tend to differ from one another mostly in looks, so while black ones pursue the homes and offices in America the small brown looking ones conquer homes in Germany.

It is possible to find species of different origins in another country just as German, American and oriental ones are found in Australian homes.

Here are a few features to look out for while identifying these loathed pests:

- ✿ Six spiny legs
- ✿ Antennas
- ✿ A head that seems covered with a helmet
- ✿ An oval-shaped body
- ✿ Wings that coat the back even though they might not be used for flight.
- ✿ The need to live in humid and unclean places

Classification of types:

1. *The German cockroach*



Like most of their kind, German cockroaches are creatures of the night and prefer the warmth of the indoors rather than the weather outdoors. Female cockroaches are known to lay 35 to 40 eggs at a time that hatch within a month's time. Their size is anywhere from 1.1cm to 1.6 cm long with their body colour varying from a tan shade to that of black. They cannot

fly and are not drawn towards the light.

German cockroach facts:

- ✿ They have a striking marking of two dark streaks on their tan, dark brown or black pronotum.
- ✿ They are smaller than other types of their species, with the length of their bodies being anywhere between 1.1cm to 1.6cm.
- ✿ Their favourite spots include the various parts of the kitchen such as the dishwashers, unwashed dishes, food containers that aren't properly sealed or uncovered edible items.
- ✿ It is quite common to find them in Australian homes and this is the cause many allergic reactions and even diseases in Australian homes.

2. The Australian Cockroach

Australian Cockroaches are descendants of the Blattidae family. Female Australian cockroaches carry an egg case that contains 24 eggs and each of these eggs develop into adults within a period of 6- 12 months.



Australian cockroach facts:

- ✿ They are smaller than their American cousins in size and are 30- 35 mm in length
- ✿ They are brown in colour with yellow fringe and stripe markings on their wings.
- ✿ They are known to love invading wall cracks, subfloors, roof spaces, they are also known to like the outdoors.
- ✿ They have wings that equip them for flying and prefer a humid and warm atmosphere.

3. The American Cockroach:



American cockroaches are known to invade homes all over the world and can be found all over the globe due to their will to thrive in tropical climatic conditions. The egg case, also known, as the oocatha of American roaches consists of 16 eggs or less that require a period of a month or 2 to hatch.

American cockroach facts:

- ✿ They are reddish brown in colour with a yellow rim and are 30 -40 mm in length.
- ✿ They thrive in dark areas such as subfloors, cellar spaces, garages, laundry rooms, sewer pipes, drains etc.
- ✿ Despite their preference for hot and humid climates they are also known to survive in cold climates by seeking refuge in warm and humid spaces.

4. The oriental cockroach:

The oriental cockroach, also known, as the black beetle cockroach and are known for their shiny appearance. The females lay 15 to 16 eggs at a time that take 2 months to hatch. They are known to be the filthiest of their kind compared to their other cousins.



Oriental cockroach facts

- ✿ They are dark brown in colour and are 20-25mm in length
- ✿ They are water bugs and infest a home through the drain pipes leaving a foul stench as an after effect of their presence.
- ✿ They live in the dark areas such as sewers; drain pipes basements, or any tiny space they can easily crawl around in. They also like surroundings that consist of a lot of greenery.

5. Brown-banded cockroaches:



Brown-banded cockroaches are found in warm and dry regions and are known to be the smallest of their kind. They have wings and are known to make good use of them. They also have a pesky habit of hiding their egg cases under household furniture items.

Brown banded cockroach facts

- ✿ They are brown in colour and are between 10-15mm in length.
- ✿ They get their name from the light coloured streaks that mark their oval-shaped bodies.
- ✿ They have yellowish brown lines or bands across their abdomen.
- ✿ They live in bathrooms, kitchens, attic rooms, warm building structures and other spaces like that under furniture.
- ✿ They are attracted towards food that has high starch content.

6. Smoky Brown Cockroach:

Smoky Brown cockroaches are known to love and thrive the outdoors more than any other kind in their family. They are known to have strong wings and their egg case contains 22 to 26 eggs that develop into adult cockroaches within a period of 6- 12months.



Smoky brown cockroach facts:

- ✿ They are dark brown in appearance and are 3-35mm in length.
- ✿ They have wings that extend outside their bodies in males while the female's wings reach the abdomen area.
- ✿ They live in trees, barks, spaces under house floorings and other dark balmy places outdoors.
- ✿ They leave their hiding places during the evening or early morning to hunt for food.
- ✿ Their excreta are known to be a dangerous substance especially while involved in contaminating any kind of edibles.