

COCKROACHES

What you need to know

There are generally 2 kinds of roaches you deal with that will live inside a house.

The most common is the German cockroach. They are 1/2" to 5/8" long light brown roach with two parallel black lines running down their backs. A female will lay 30 to 40 eggs into an egg capsule which she carries with her. The female will drop the egg sac shortly before the eggs are about to hatch. Once hatched, a nymph will take about 3 months to become an adult. A female adult will produce 4 to 8 egg capsules in her 3 to 6 month long adult life. These roaches initially set up in kitchens and bathrooms where food and water are plentiful, but will spread out into other areas of the house as the population increases.

The other common household roach is the brown-banded cockroach. They are 1/2" long brown roach with two yellow-brown lines across their backs. This female will produce an egg capsule containing 14-18 eggs, which she carried for 2 to 3 days, then attaches it to a safe location to hatch in about another 70 days. Once the nymphs hatch it will take them 3 to 7.5 months to fully develop. A female will lay around 14 egg capsules in her 6 month life span. These roaches are mostly found in areas higher up because they prefer drier warmer areas. You can frequently find them in upper cupboards, behind pictures and in appliances.

What we do

We treat throughout the home with gel roach bait. If you have activity in specific areas, especially certain drawers, closets, or cupboards make sure you let us know. Roaches will eat the bait and start to die a few days later. They are able to pass the bait on to other roaches as well. Sometimes an aerosol may be used to help locate activity or flush activity out of a hard to reach area.

What you need to do

Clean up food debris. Roaches can live off of food crumbs so get rid of anything that helps them live longer.
Clean up dead roaches. Roach skins can aggravate breathing conditions like asthma and removing carcasses will help you track new activity.

Check electronic devices. Roaches love things that get plugged in, so give your radios a shake to see if they've taken up residence there.

Throw away any boxes that aren't necessary, replace with plastic containers if you want. Roaches can turn corrugated cardboard into virtual condos!

Go through your cupboards and check out the stuff you've been storing for a long time, look for areas of activity that you may not have noticed before.