

German Cockroaches

QUICK STATS:

Color: Light brown to tan with two dark stripes

Shape: Oval

Size: ½ to 5/8 inches long



OVERVIEW

The German cockroach is the most common species of cockroach, found all over the world. German cockroaches prefer to live in cracks and crevices near food and moisture sources, hence their affinity for residential and commercial kitchen environments.

HABITS

German cockroaches are found throughout structures, but they prefer warm, humid places. They are commonly found in kitchens and bathrooms. They are good hitchhikers and often find their way into new structures via grocery bags, cardboard boxes, drink cartons and secondhand appliances.

THREATS

In addition to being a nuisance, the German cockroach has been implicated in outbreaks of illness and allergic reactions in many people. Cockroaches have been reported to spread at least 33 kinds of bacteria, six kinds of parasitic worms and at least seven other kinds of human pathogens. Medical studies have shown that cockroach allergens cause allergic reactions in children and can exacerbate asthma attacks.

PREVENTION

- Vacuum. Early and often is best for reducing harmful cockroach allergens.
- Keep a spotless kitchen. To prevent infestations, keep all your food and garbage in sealed containers and dispose of it regularly. Clean behind and under appliances regularly, as these are favorite hiding spots for cockroaches.
- Pay extra attention to kitchens and bathrooms, especially under appliances and sinks as these areas are particularly vulnerable to cockroach infestations.
- Seal the entrances. Close off cracks and holes around utility pipes that provide easy access to your home.
- Act quickly. If you find evidence of an infestation, contact a licensed pest professional to inspect and treat the problem.

DID YOU KNOW? German Cockroaches

- can breed at a rate of up to six generations per year.
- will feed on almost anything, including soap, glue and toothpaste.
- Can fit through an opening as small as $\frac{3}{16}$ inch in width.