

PEST FACT SHEET

German Cockroach *Blattella germanica* L.

Size

German cockroach adults are about (13-16 mm) long.

Characteristics

The German cockroach rarely glides or flies. Female abdomen is broader than that of male.

Color

Light brown with two almost parallel, dark longitudinal stripes, bars, or streaks on shield; female darker than male.

Habitat

Primarily nocturnal. Prefer warm & humid conditions. Prefer narrow harbourages close to food & water. Can climb smooth surfaces. Female carries the ootheca attached to her abdomen until the nymphs are about to hatch.

Food Habit

All types of food, as well as things like soap, glue and toothpaste.

Biology

Female carries egg capsule until within 1-2 days of hatching, and deposits it in a sheltered place. She will produce about 5 egg capsules (30-40 eggs each) in her life. Development from egg to adult varies, averaging about 3 months, but can be faster, resulting in 3-4 or more generations per year. Adults live about 3-7 months. Reproducing females are very active, but females carrying egg capsules are not, coming out for food and water only when necessary. Males hide, even at night. The last three days before molting, developing cockroaches (nymphs) stay hidden.

Damage

German cockroaches are the most common, and have the most impact as a nuisance. They may transmit disease organisms, and cause allergic reactions in some people.

Invasion

They come inside with paper products and packaging, and used appliances. In summer they may move from one building to another. They can survive outdoors if it is warm, although this is uncommon.

Detection & Management

1. Inspect using a flashlight to determine location.
2. Apply gel bait at dry areas and pesticide emulsion at wet areas.
3. Glue traps can be used for mass trapping at heavily infested areas.



PEST FACT SHEET

American Cockroach *Periplaneta americana* (L.)

Size

American Cockroach adults are about 34-45mm long.

Characteristics

A cockroach is oval in outline, with body flattened, antennae long and threadlike, head mostly hidden, chewing mouthparts, front wings leathery with veins. American cockroach: both sexes fully winged; wings of male (but not female) extend beyond tip of abdomen; poor to moderate flier.

Color

Dark Reddish brown



Habitat Area

Warm, humid places. The American cockroach may be found in residential buildings, but is far more common in food storage and food preparation areas, basements, and steam tunnels of large commercial buildings, such as restaurants, markets, hospitals, food processing plants.

Food Habit

Cockroaches will eat practically anything from human food to leather, wallpaper and even other cockroaches.

Biology

The female drops her egg capsule or uses a substance from her mouth to glue it to the surface of a crevice that is near a source of food. She does this an average of about 9-10 times during her life. Each egg capsule contains about 14-16 eggs. Development from egg to adult at room temperature takes about 20 months, and 10-13 molts. Adult females live about 15 months, or half that time if the temperature rises to the mid 80s F.

Damage

Cockroaches present one of the most significant public health risks, carrying diseases such as dysentery, gastroenteritis, diarrhoea, typhoid, poliomyelitis and salmonella.

Invasion

American cockroaches may enter buildings in packaging, or come up through sewer drains, or in a mass, from other structures or dumps, during warm weather.

Detection & Management

1. Inspect areas with flashlight to determine exact location of breeding.
2. Sanitation and preventive measures to prevent breeding.
3. Gel baits treatment at dry areas and spraying pesticides in wet areas.