

Cockroach Facts

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There may be as many as 12 - 40 eggs in each egg capsule.

The female cockroach may produce one every six weeks.

Nymphs (young cockroaches) can reach adulthood in 6 weeks.

A cockroach's life span may be from a few months to a year and the female can produce 5 to 30 egg cases in this time.

Health

Some people are allergic to cockroaches. They can cause asthma in asthmatics. Allergens may be ingested where foods are contaminated with droppings or inhaled when dried droppings become part of the house dust.

Disease

Organisms that cause Gastroenteritis, dysentery, hepatitis, and typhoid fever may be transmitted by cockroaches to humans.

"What are the habits of cockroaches?"

Cockroaches are scavengers and will eat almost anything, dead animals, vegetable materials, cardboard, fabrics, glue, hair, and book bindings.

Contamination of food and cooking utensils with droppings, egg cases, and secretions pose a health hazard.

Mostly nocturnal, cockroaches will hide during the day and become active at night and will quickly disappear if disturbed. Therefore, homeowners may not be aware that they have a cockroach problem.

Cockroaches generally like to hide in tight cracks and crevices, which offer security and have a tendency to congregate together.

Unpleasant odours may be experienced in large infestations of cockroaches.

If cockroaches are seen during the day it usually indicates a serious infestation.

"So What do I do?"

There are many things that you can do to help control cockroach infestations

Hygiene

Keep all food and rubbish in sealed containers particularly if left over night

Keep kitchens clean especially around sinks and be sure to wipe up any spills particularly grease and fats and other foods.

Ensure that pet feeding bowls and areas are kept clean and free of old food scraps

Physical Control

Seal all cracks and crevices to deny harbourage areas to cockroaches.

Avoid storing cartons in the home overnight because this is a common source of cockroach harbourage.

Avoid storing foodstuffs on the floor.

Fixes leaking pipes and empty refrigerator drip trays regularly.

Use old food stocks first to ensure that any contaminated stock is discovered before it becomes a problem.

If red wine or other sweet drinks are left out overnight you will be able to see the extent of the cockroach problem.

"What do I do if I already have a problem?"

Good house keeping is necessary prior to any treatments being carried out.

As an alternative to pesticides try using Borax powder in the areas that you have found the cockroaches i.e. under fridge's, in cupboards and around electrical fittings.

You may also mix Borax powder with jam to use it as bait. **Be sure to keep any bait out of the reach of children and pets.**

If applying insecticides be sure to follow the directions on the label. This will ensure that you are taking the appropriate measures to protect you and your families health.

Dusts should be used around electrical fittings such as fridge motors.

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German cockroach

Blattella germanica

Habitat: warm moist environment common in kitchens and restaurants

Preferred Temperature: 30°C

Oothecae produced per female: 4-8

Incubation period per oothecae: Approx. 17 days

Eggs per oothecae: Approx. 37

Period of nymphal development Male: Approx.40 days

Female: Approx 41 days

Average adult life-span Male: 128 days

Female: 153 days

Length of adult: 10 – 15mm

Distribution: Worldwide

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American cockroach

Periplaneta Americana

Habitat: Warm moist environment common in restaurants, bakeries and food preparation areas. Often commonly associated with drains and sewers.

Preferred temperature: 30 - 33°C

Oothecae produced per female: Approx. 30

Incubation period per oothecae: 25 – 40 days

Eggs per oothecae: 14 - 28

Period of nymphal development: Male: 130 – 150 days

Female: 130 – 150 days

Average adult life span: 250 – 350 days, males shorter lived than females

Length of adult: 28 – 44mm

Distribution: Worldwide



Australian cockroach

Periplaneta australasiae

Habitat: Warm, moist environment common in food preparation areas

Preferred temperature: 30 – 36°C

Oothecae produced per female: 20 - 30

Incubation period per oothecae: Approx. 40 days

Eggs per oothecae: Approx. 24

Period of nymphal development: Male: 180 – 270 days

Female: 180 – 270 days

Average adult life span: 120 – 180 days

Length of adult: 30 – 35mm

Distribution: Worldwide

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Smoky-brown cockroach

Periplaneta fuliginosa

Habitat: Warm, moist environment. Common out of doors in garages and outhouses from where it invades houses.

Preferred temperature: 30 – 33°C

Oothecae produced per female: 20 - 30

Incubation period per oothecae: 40 – 70 days

Eggs per oothecae: 20

Period of nymphal development: Male: Approx. 180 -200 days

Female: Approx. 180 – 200 days

Average adult life span: 250 – 300days

Length of adult: 30 – 35mm

Distribution: Various including North America and Australia

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The Oriental cockroach

Blatta orientalis

Habitat: Cool, damp environment common in basements and cellars. Large numbers may be found around water sources such as baths or sinks.

Preferred temperature: 20 – 25°C

Oothecae produced per female: 5 - 10

Incubation period per oothecae: 40 – 80 days

Eggs per oothecae: Approx. 18

Period of nymphal development: Male: Approx. 180 days

Female: Approx. 300 days

Can be up to 500 days at low temperature

Average adult life span: 60 – 250 days depending on temperature

Length of adult: 20 – 24mm

Distribution: Temperate climates worldwide



Brown-banded cockroach

Supella longipalpa

Habitat: warm environment. Common both indoors and out of doors. This species becomes widely distributed throughout an infested property

Preferred temperature: 20 – 25°C

Oothecae produced per female: 5 - 10

Incubation period per oothecae: 40 – 80 days

Eggs per oothecae: Approx. 18

Period of nymphal development: Male: 50 – 60 days

Female: 50 – 60 days

Average adult life span: Male: 115 days

Female: 90 days

Length of adult: 13 – 14mm

Distribution: Worldwide

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Giant Deaths Head cockroach

Blaberus craniifer

Habitat: Warm moist environment, usually out of doors, associated with rotting vegetation. Occasionally enters houses.

Preferred temperature: 28 – 33°C

Oothecae produced per female: Approx. 20

Incubation period per oothecae: Approx 40 days

Eggs per oothecae: 34

Period of nymphal development: Male: 260 – 280 days

Female: 260 – 280 days

Average adult life span: Male: Approx. 400 days

Female: Approx 500 days

Length of adult: 50 -55 mm

Distribution: American tropics

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