

Cockroach German (*Blattella germanica*) Oriental (*Blatta orientalis*)

Description

The Oriental cockroach is very common. It grows to about 2cm long and can be shiny and dark brown to black in colour. The German cockroach is slightly smaller (10 to 15mm long) and yellowish brown in colour. Average life span approx 12 months depending of type.



Where and how do they live?

They are frequently associated with restaurants, hotels, hospitals, prisons and flats. Outdoors cockroaches may be found around drains, dustbins and on refuse tips. They are nocturnal insects, can climb rough surfaces such as brickwork and often congregate around water sources.

Why are they a problem?

Cockroaches carry and spread food poisoning organisms which can create serious conditions such as dysentery and gastro-enteritis, salmonella, E-coli and typhoid.

What can I do to prevent them?

Ensure that your home is kept clean and food is stored in air tight containers. It is common for dried food such as rice to become infested during storage in warehouses and shops, so bear this in mind when you are shopping and only buy from clean shops.

All cracks, crevices and other building defects that could provide a dark enclosure for cockroaches in your home should be filled in and/or repaired. Pipe work, if possible, should be boxed in as these areas provide an excellent hiding place.

How can I get rid of cockroaches?

It is likely you will need professional help to eradicate cockroaches. Find out whether your neighbours also have a problem, as treating one property in isolation is rarely effective - adjoining properties and blocks may need to be treated at the same time. It is important for you to take immediate action when you spot cockroaches in your home as they can quickly spread to your neighbours.

How we can help

If you see cockroaches in your council home, please get in touch as we will send a professional pest officer to exterminate the pests.

If you are a private home owner we can provide a pest control service however there will be a charge.

Contact

If you are a council tenant and you are having a problem with cockroaches please get in contact with your area housing office or call 0800 952 4444.