

Cockroaches

Pest control facts – Cockroaches



German Cockroach



Oriental Cockroach

The two most commonly found cockroaches in the UK are:

- the [German Cockroach](#)
- the [Oriental Cockroach](#)

Cockroaches are large insects which range in size from 10-23mm they have a long antennae and two pairs of wings.

The German Cockroach is dark brown and smaller than the Oriental cockroach, which is black in colour.

The German variety can climb smooth surfaces.

Health risks

Cockroaches carry food poisoning germs on their bodies and are responsible for the spread of dysentery and gastro-enteritis.

They will feed on almost anything including faecal matter.

Food contamination will occur when the insect comes in to contact with food, food preparation surfaces or through faecal contamination of foodstuffs.

Life cycle

The female cockroach produces up to eight purse-like egg cases at monthly intervals.

The cases can contain up to 30 eggs and nymphs hatch in 2-4 weeks (6-12 weeks for Oriental cockroaches).

The nymph looks the same as an adult cockroach, only smaller.

Recognising a cockroach problem

You may see their eggs, which are the size and shape of a kidney bean and brown in colour.

You may also notice cockroach faeces, which looks like black pepper.

Where they like to live

Cockroaches can be found in premises where food is stored or handled.

They will spend most of the day hiding in cracks and around drains and service ducting.

They are most active at night and if a light is turned on will scamper away to hide.

Infestations are mainly introduced into premises in food and laundry deliveries.

Preventative treatment

You can help to prevent infestations by making sure your premises are clean and that there are no food sources or hiding places.

Plug all small cracks around baseboards, cupboards, pipes, sinks and water heaters with latex or silicone sealant.

Larger holes will need to be patched.

Move debris, firewood and rubbish away from the house and out of kitchens.

Treatment we provide

You will need professional help in treating a cockroach infestation particularly if you run a commercial food premises.

Our Pest Control officers will treat your premises with gel bait, which poisons the cockroaches.

This visit will take between 30 minutes to an hour.

The gel bait can take up to 48 hours to work.