

Cockroach Control

Hygiene Management

It is essential that prior to any treatment being carried out, standards of hygiene are at their highest possible level. All areas should be cleared of debris, boxes etc to give ease of access for treatment and to ensure that all food sources and debris are removed. No amount of chemical treatment will be successful in eradicating the infestation where poor hygiene standards exist. It is important to ensure that any cracks and crevices are sealed wherever this is possible, and that no waste pipes are leaking, or taps dripping etc.


Insecticidal Control

There are many different products on the market for treating cockroaches, but they are one of the harder insect infestations to deal with and treatment should really be carried out by a professional pest control contractor. More than one treatment will need to be applied and it is vital that you adhere to any instructions relating to cleaning of premises and the removal of dead insects that the contractor gives you. Where you can increase ventilation during the treatment of the infestation you should do so as this will help to accelerate the dehydration of the cockroaches.

Customer Services

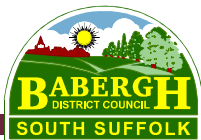
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Advice to Householders



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Characteristics

There are somewhere in the region of 4000 different species of cockroaches and fossils have been found which date back 250 million years, with little changes from their present day appearance.

Adult pest species of cockroaches may vary in size from 10-50mm in length. The body is flattened from top to bottom and is clearly divided into head, thorax and abdomen. Cockroaches typically have long filamentous antennae, one pair of eyes and chewing mouthparts adapted for omnivorous feeding.

The well developed thorax holds three pairs of strong legs which are often covered in stout hairs or bristles, terminating in paired claws and sometimes a pad. In most species, the adults have two pairs of well-developed wings with a webbed venation folded scissor-like over the thorax and abdomen. In tropical temperatures cockroaches can fly, but in cooler climates like the UK, the wing muscles are rarely activated sufficiently to allow flight. The two most common species in the UK are the oriental and German cockroaches.

German Cockroach (*Blattella germanica*). The adult is generally 10-15mm in length, reddish-yellowish brown in colour with two longitudinal dark marks on the prothorax (in front of the wings). The wings are well developed in both sexes and they can readily climb rough and polished vertical surfaces. Oriental Cockroach (*Blatta orientalis*). The adult is generally 20-24mm long, dark brown to black in colour. The wings of the male cover $\frac{2}{3}$ of the abdomen, whereas the wings of the female are not fully developed. They can climb rough surfaces very efficiently.

The nymphs of all species are similar in appearance to the adults but are smaller. Immediately after hatching or moulting the nymphs are very pale in colour, but their shell soon darkens to the normal colour. Cockroaches are normally found in large numbers and are nocturnal. They spend the day hiding in cracks and crevices around such areas as sinks, drains, cookers, backs of cupboards and in fridge/freezer motor compartments.

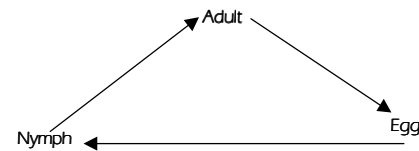
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Behaviour and significance

Infestations may occur from the introduction of egg cases or adults in raw materials, crates, packaging or via drains.

Cockroaches are potential carriers of diseases such as dysentery, gastroenteritis, typhoid and poliomyelitis. Their diet includes fermenting substances, soiled septic dressings, hair, leather, parchment, wallpaper, faeces and food for human consumption. Food can become contaminated by the transfer of causative agents of disease from the cockroach's body or by transmission of their excrement. Due to these reasons, cockroaches are considered to be pests in the interest of public health

Cockroaches and their faeces may cause allergic reactions especially amongst those with respiratory disorders. Exposures may result from ingestion or through inhalation of material derived from cockroaches in airborne dust. Food may also be tainted with the characteristic smell of the cockroach, which is produced by faeces and salivary/abdominal gland secretions or by the dead insects.



Life cycle

The female lays her eggs in an ootheca (case) which is extremely resistant to drying up and to insecticides. Each ootheca can contain between 12 and 50 eggs depending on the species. After 6-12 weeks, the eggs hatch and the nymphs emerge as colourless, wingless miniature adults. The nymphs will then go through somewhere between 5 and 12 moults before becoming full adults. This process can take between 10 months and 2 years to complete, again depending on the particular species.

The female can lay her eggs at a rate of one ootheca per month, and the adults will live for between 4 months and a year at 25°C depending on the species.