



GERMAN COCKROACH INFORMATION SHEET

German Cockroaches are the world's most successful and prolific cockroaches because of their extremely fast breeding habits and ability to adapt to almost any environment. They will eat anything that humans do and will also eat wallpaper, curtains, leather and any other organic material. They are always found indoors and tend to stay where food and water are freely available, such as kitchens, pantries and bathrooms, etc. They cannot fly and carry their egg capsules (Ootheca) until maturity, unlike the other pest species.

IDENTIFICATION:

The adults are 10-15mm long and are tan to medium brown coloured with 2 parallel dark stripes on the head section (Pronotum). The nymphs are very small, dark and beetle-like when they first emerge from the capsule and within a few weeks grow more slender and lighter coloured. They have a light stripe down the centre at this stage of their development. Signs of infestation include cast skins, dark regurgitation and faecal droppings in corners and door hinges of cupboards. Their droppings are tiny and resemble fly-specks. They are often confused with the Brown-banded Cockroach which is lighter in colour, lives outdoors or indoors in dry environments and can fly.

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES TO ENSURE PERMANENT CONTROL:

Once you have employed a professional pest control company such as EXOPEST CONTROL to control German Cockroaches in your environment, there are certain things that you can do in order to get a faster, more permanent result. We have used our professional equipment and insecticides to get to the places that you would not normally even think of, let alone carry out. Once we have gone there are three measures that you can do to achieve this result. These 3 things are;

1. KEEP THE AREAS WHERE COCKROACHES HAVE BEEN FOUND SCRUPULOUSLY CLEAN.

This involves keeping the floor and other areas free of food scraps and grease. Washing up should not be left overnight and food should never be consumed in any place other than the meal area. Cardboard and paper are notorious for harbouring German Cockroaches. Do not store these for any period longer than necessary.

2. FILL OR BLOCK OFF ANY CRACKS AND CREVICES THAT PROVIDE HIDING AREAS FOR COCKROACHES.

This may be done with a caulking agent such as "No More Gaps." Dripping taps should have washers replaced as this may provide water that they can drink.

3. ONE MONTH TO SIX WEEKS AFTER TREATMENT MAINTENANCE TREATMENTS SHOULD BE DONE, EVEN IF NO COCKROACHES ARE SIGHTED AT THIS STAGE.

Doing this will break their life cycle and hasten their demise assisting in continued control. Cockroaches can easily be re introduced through second hand equipment, appliances that are sent in for repairs or maintenance or deliveries. Remember that cockroach control relies upon a conscientious effort from both the pest control operator and the client. Success definitely doesn't occur overnight but following these few instructions will get you very good results within one month of our treatment and reduces the likelihood of living and working with these unwanted guests in the future

Do I need to empty my kitchen cupboards?

Yes, it's preferable to empty cupboards if heavy infestation but we can apply a gel or insecticidal dust to areas where cockroaches nest or harbour if they cannot be emptied. No liquid sprays need to be applied to these areas after initial treatment.

Are My Pets Safe?

There is no concern to the safety of animals since the amount of active constituent that they may take in, either by contact while it's wet or by ingesting it orally, is very small.

What do I need to prepare for the Pest Control treatment?

Leave the driveway clear for our van is a good idea. Access to room edges is necessary to spray along skirtings. Therefore clothing articles, magazines, toys etc. should be moved off the ground. All food items should be cleared from bench and table tops.

Will the spray you use stain my carpet?

No, the emulsion we spray does not stain. It's a water based residual spray that doesn't contain strong solvents which might affect colouring or finishes.

Will the spray affect humans?

No, it will not affect you. The chemicals we apply are registered to be used in hospitals, schools and public places. (see also MSDS - Material Safety Data Sheets)

Is it safe to stay in my premises while you spray?

It's safe, but we recommend that you keep children and pets away from the sprayer or vacate your premises while the treatment is carried out and to ventilate the rooms thoroughly after completion for 3 hours before settling back in.

My child suffers from asthma. Is it safe to stay?

To avoid triggering an asthma attack, we recommended that he/she is not present while the treatment is carried out, and preferably stays away from the premises overnight.

What if I touch areas that have been sprayed?

Sprayed areas are of some concern while still wet. But once the carrier, which is water from the tap, has evaporated, the active constituent adheres to the surfaces and will not contaminate or harm you. Should you get in contact while it's still wet though, wash with soap and plenty of water as soon as possible.

Will the gel that is applied to the inside of cupboards contaminate my food?

No it will not. The gel is only applied to areas where insects congregate or harbour, like cracks, crevices or hinges.

Will I see cockroaches, spiders or ants after the treatment?

Yes, it's possible that insects may wander in from outside. Chances are that they will have crossed treated areas and will die shortly after.

How often should I have a Pest Control treatment done?

Regularly at intervals of no more than six months. Shorter periods may be recommended, according to environment conditions.

Is the treatment guaranteed?

No, it's not guaranteed, but a free service period may given.

Do I need to wash everything after the treatment?

There is no need to wash utensils or surfaces once the treatment is carried out.

I'm renovating. When is it best to do the pest control?

We suggest that the pest control is done after all trades people have completed their jobs (painting, carpet laying, landscaping and final clean up). Preferably one or two days prior to moving in.

I'm planning to have my carpet cleaned. Will that affect the Pest Control treatment?

It's best to do the pest control after carpets have been cleaned or vacuumed.

Cockroaches FAQ

Q: What are Cockroaches?

A: Cockroaches are one of the oldest and most primitive forms of insects with fossil records dating them at almost 300 million years old. They are closely related to insects such as the Cricket and the Praying Mantis. There are some 4000 species recorded worldwide, the majority of which live harmlessly out doors.

Q: What are the most common types of cockroach found in the UK?

A: Only very few species of cockroach are commonly found in the UK; these are the Common, or Oriental cockroach (*Blatta orientalis*), and the German cockroach (*Blattella germanica*). Other species sometimes encountered are the Brown Banded, American and Australian cockroach.

Q: How can I identify the Oriental cockroach?

A: The Oriental cockroach can be distinguished by its size and colour, being larger (17 – 30 mm long) and darker brown (almost black) compared with the German cockroach. Adult males and females can be easily distinguished from each other by the presence or absence of wings; the male has a pair of leathery front wings that cover about three quarters of the length of its body while the female's wings are severely reduced and appear to be non-existent. They tend to be found deep in the fabric of a building, which makes it difficult to get insecticide into their harbourages to control infestations. The Oriental cockroach can be found in virtually any home or work environment. They are less temperature dependant than the German cockroach so they may also be found outdoors around drains, dustbins and rubbish tips.

Q: How can I identify the German cockroach?

A: German cockroaches are smaller (12 – 16 mm long) than the Oriental Cockroach. Both sexes have wings, which are a mid-brown colour, and the area behind the head is yellow with two dark brown stripes running from front to back. They are good climbers and can even scale smooth vertical surfaces. German cockroaches prefer hot, moist environments; typically they can be a major pest in hospitals, restaurants, laundries, kitchens and apartment buildings. They do not live so deep within the building fabric and prefer small harbourages down to 2mm wide.

Q: What is the life cycle of cockroaches?

A: All cockroach species have an incomplete metamorphosis, which means that they do not have a larval/maggot stage, instead the eggs hatch into nymphs, which are very similar in appearance to the adult insect; the nymphs moult as they grow until, on the final moult, they emerge as a fully mature adult. The female Oriental cockroach produces up to sixteen eggs at a time in a large (10mm long) dark brown egg case called an ootheca. Eggs hatch after about two months and the nymphs take up to eighteen months to reach maturity. In contrast the German cockroach ootheca will contain up to thirty eggs. Eggs hatch after about a month and the nymphs take about three to four months to reach maturity.

Q: When am I most likely to see cockroaches and can they cause damage to my property?

A: Cockroaches are nocturnal. Any sudden light will cause them to scurry for shelter. An infestation of cockroaches can number in the thousands although they are not normally associated with damage to buildings or vegetation; however it has been known for their corrosive body fluids to cause short circuits and fires in electrical systems.

Q: Are cockroaches harmful to humans?

A: Yes. Cockroaches are second only to house flies for spreading disease. Cockroaches carry germs and are known to transmit pathogenic bacteria. They will feed on almost anything including faecal matter and food for human consumption. Contamination will occur when the insect comes into contact with food or work surfaces or through faecal contamination of foodstuffs.

Q: Are cockroaches only found in unclean conditions?

A: No. They can be found under the cleanest conditions, wherever food and warmth are present. For this reason they are a major problem in hospitals, hotels, restaurants, bakeries, butcher shops, multi-unit residences, and homes.

Q: How are cockroaches controlled?

A: The control measures taken will depend on the level and extent of the infestation. This can be determined by the prophylactic use of sticky insect detectors, or by carrying out an inspection at night when they are most active. Once harbourages have been located a wide range of insecticide formulations are available for use. These include sprays, dusts, aerosols and baits. Many of the insecticides recommended for use against cockroaches can be harmful and should only be used by professional pest control operators like Santia. You can help prevent an infestation by practicing good hygiene and eliminating accessible food. Careful inspection of produce or packages entering the premises can also help to prevent cockroaches from establishing themselves in your building.

Our kitchens are warm, have food and water sources. They are natural places for some pests to thrive. The most problematic kitchen pests are cockroaches, unsavory creatures that disgust nearly everyone.

People in general assume that only "DIRTY" people or "DIRTY" homes have cockroaches...this is NOT true. Every home kitchen or commercial kitchen has the potential to have cockroach problem.

Once a cockroach infestation gets started, its severity is usually determined by the resources available for cockroach survival--food, water and hiding spots...all of which are factors we often control. The biggest cockroach problems are often in homes where there is a clutter problem because, the more stuff people have, especially in the kitchen, the more hiding places for roaches. But, clean, neat and tidy kitchens can still have roaches. For example, cockroaches can hide underneath the labels of canned goods and eat the paste off the labels.

Because cockroaches tend to frequent garbage cans, sewers and other disease-laden locations, germs attach to their body that can transfer to food contact surfaces (utensils, plates) during the normal course of roach activities...These include disease-causing bacteria: Salmonella, Shigella, E. coli, Streptococcus (pneumonia)...If this hasn't convinced you they are bad to live with, cockroaches also produce a powerful allergen that causes allergies and asthma.

COCKROACHES...WHEN THEY INVADE YOUR HOME

STEPS TO TAKE WHEN COCKROACHES INVADE YOUR HOME

1. Sanitation efforts alone (eliminating food, water, hiding places) may not be enough to eliminate a cockroach problem, but will reduce the population and make other control efforts work better.
2. Getting rid of clutter is extremely important.
3. Eliminating water and food will make roaches move farther to obtain them and come into contact with baits and other control tactics.
Cleaning cupboards and under/around appliances is important. Keep a [vacuum](#) cleaner handy. [Vacuuming](#) roaches is an easy way to make a dent in the population. Just be sure to take the vacuum cleaner bag outside afterwards.
4. Because roaches usually travel pretty close to where they hide, use sticky traps (glue boards) to see where roaches are hiding. Replace them when the surface is covered with roaches. Over time, glue boards will indicate how well controls are working and identify new infestations.
5. The biggest improvement in controlling cockroaches in recent years is the availability of effective bait products. They are available in small plastic containers (bait stations) or as a dispensable gel. Baits use fipronil, hydramethylnon, boric acid or abamectin as their active ingredient. Use gel baits (best) or bait stations in areas where roaches are caught on sticky traps. Bait areas where roach specks are found-these are locations where roaches spend a lot of time