

# Cockroaches

## *An informative guide for residents...*



The two main species of cockroach in Britain are the Oriental cockroach which is dark brown in colour and about 30mm long and the German cockroach which is light yellowish brown, and about 12mm long. Both species bodies are divided into three sections and have long antennae protruding from the head.

### **Where do they live?**

Cockroaches are generally found indoors, in areas such as cellars, basements, kitchens, bakeries and heating ducts. The Oriental cockroach can survive outdoors in Britain. Cockroaches will often remain hidden during the day using cracks and crevices as harbourages. This means that in most cases they will not be evident during the hours of daylight. Most species can climb smooth vertical surfaces.

Cockroaches can survive for several months without food, but will not live for more than a few days without water.

### **Are they harmful?**

Cockroaches are capable of carrying the organisms which cause food poisoning in humans and many other bacteria. They will feed on almost anything, including refuse, faecal matter and food for humans consumption.

### **Control measures: (Hygiene)**

A thorough cleaning of the areas should take place prior to the insecticidal treatment, paying particular attention to removing food and water sources and hiding places.

## Sticky traps

The use of sticky traps is not recommended for controlling cockroaches, but should be used for monitoring the extent of the infestation.

## Insecticidal control

The success of the treatment depends on what insecticides are chosen, and how thorough the application is. Many of the insects and the in egg cases are hidden in cracks and crevices, so particular attention should be paid to these areas when applying insecticides. To control an infestation, the use of insecticide should continue until the egg cases have hatched. This may require further applications.

## Insecticide baits

Baits can give continuous control of cockroaches over an extended period. The cockroaches will feed on these baits picking up enough insecticides to kill them.

## Happy to help

We are available to offer advice or to deal with your pest problem.



**Swift, confidential and professional service.**

All our staff are RSPH level 2 qualified and are members of Basis Prompt, the Professional Pest Controllers Register with more than 50 years experience.



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