

# FACT sheet

# Cockroaches

**EXODUS**  
PEST CONTROL

## Cockroaches

There are 428 species of cockroach in Australia and a number of introduced species have become pests. The two most significant pest cockroaches are the German cockroach and the American cockroach.

Cockroaches live and feed in unhygienic places such as sewers and drains, or feed on garbage that may be contaminated. These insects are cold-blooded and thrive in warm, humid conditions. This is why buildings in the northern parts of Australia are particularly prone to infestations. However cockroaches will make their home wherever they find food, moisture and shelter.



German cockroach

### German cockroach

The German cockroach is the most common cockroach found in houses, apartments and commercial buildings in Australia. Their small size means that human occupants, many of whom do not recognise early nymphal stages as cockroaches, initially tolerate them. Their rapid reproduction rate enables a few individuals to become a pest problem over one season. From an original female German cockroach there could be potentially more than 100,000 cockroaches in a home by the end of one year! German cockroaches are nocturnal and forage for food and water at night when they are less likely to be seen. In the daytime, they hide in cracks and crevices in cupboards and kitchen appliances and so are easily overlooked. You can find them then around refrigerators, dishwashers, stoves, washers and dryers, and water heaters. They do not fly. The German cockroach is the most difficult pest cockroach species to control.

### American cockroach

The American cockroach is the largest of the pest species. It is red-brown, with fully developed wings that cover the abdomen, and it will fly in warm conditions. The American Cockroach has a great potential for producing offspring. Because of the large size of both adults and nymphs, people are less tolerant of this species, and the cockroaches also find fewer places inside to hide in the daytime. When established in homes they are normally found in wall voids or behind cupboards, in underfloor areas or in roof spaces. Normally they enter living rooms, kitchens and bathrooms when they are foraging for food and water. They are most associated with the areas around homes or buildings. Common areas where they are found include gardens, around garbage, inside drains and in outhouses such as sheds or garages. American cockroaches can coexist with German Cockroaches with no negative effects on either cockroach population.



American cockroach



Brown-banded cockroaches

### The brown-banded cockroach

A single brown-banded female cockroach has the potential to produce about 250 offspring. But, because of the longer time that it takes nymphs to grow into sexually mature adults, large populations are not produced as quickly as those of the German cockroach. In addition, because the egg cases are glued to objects in the environment soon after formation, they are susceptible to drying out, attack by fungi and other factors that contribute to produce a low hatch rate. This translates into a much lower potential for offspring production than for the German cockroach. They are often found dispersed through the house behind picture frames and in light switches and furniture. Because they require less water than German cockroaches, they often survive in drier locations that are unsuitable for German cockroaches. They frequently occur in locations at eye-level or above such as in cabinets, around closet shelves, behind pictures, in warm areas near motors of refrigerators, electric clocks, timers and television sets. Other favourite habitats are around the braces of kitchen chairs and tables, around objects on the wall and in shower stalls.

### The oriental cockroach

The oriental cockroach is found in the cooler areas of Australia. They are dark brown or black and may be found under floors, in sewers and drains, and around garden rubbish. A single female oriental cockroach has a much lower potential for producing offspring than either the German or the brown-banded females. They are more sensitive to lack of water than other cockroaches and like cool, damp locations. Look for oriental cockroaches in dark, damp basements, crawl spaces, areas between soil and the foundation, underneath sidewalks, in sewer pipes, floor drains and any other cool, moist place. Outside, they sometimes congregate near or under garbage cans.



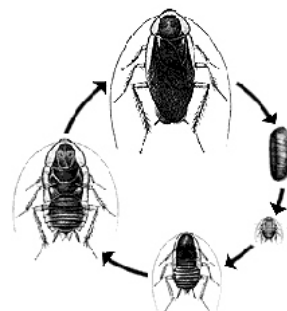
Oriental cockroach

*"Your EXODUS Pest Control technician has a variety of products and a plan of attack to treat your specific cockroach situation. Listen to his professional advice and his plan to address your situation so that you have a thorough understanding of the treatment."*

# EXODUS PEST CONTROL

## Lifecycle

A population of cockroaches can build quickly if not kept in check. A female cockroach lays between 10 and 40 eggs at a time. On average, the female can lay around 30 batches of eggs in her lifetime. The hatched young look the same as adults, only smaller and without wings. Very small nymphs hatch from the egg capsule and then develop through a series of nymph stages to become adults. Depending on the conditions and type, a cockroach can live for up to 12 months.



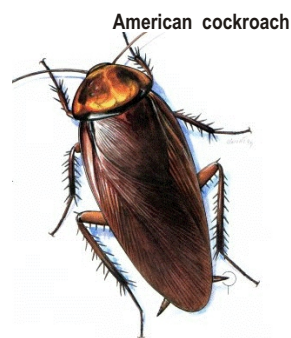
## Economic and health impacts of cockroaches

Cockroaches are a health hazard. They carry bacteria on their bodies from sewers, drains and garbage areas which brings them in contact with disease organisms including salmonella and other organisms associated with dysentery, typhoid, hepatitis and tuberculosis and then transmits it to you and your family by visiting your kitchen and bathroom areas.

Ingested bacteria can survive in the cockroach's digestive system for its entire life-span, and are passed in its droppings. It is thought that disease is then transmitted to humans when they eat cockroach droppings on contaminated food.

## Cockroach allergies and asthma

People can become allergic to cockroaches and their faeces. Cockroach allergens are present mostly in settled dust, rather than air, as the particles are large and do not remain airborne unless disturbed. There seems to be a particular association between cockroach allergens and asthma but they can also cause **rhinitis** and **dermatitis**. The allergens are potent sensitisers of children and exposure to cockroach allergens early in life has been found to be a predictor for the development of asthma.



American cockroach

## Preventative measures to ensure permanent control

Once you have employed a professional pest control company such as EXODUS PEST CONTROL to control 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 treatments to get to the places that you would not normally even think of, let alone carry out. Once we have carried out our treatment, there are three measures that you can take to maximise the effectiveness:

### 1. REMOVE OR ELIMINATE FOOD SOURCES FOR COCKROACHES.

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 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. LISTEN TO YOUR PROFESSIONAL PEST TECHNICIAN'S PLAN OF CONTROL.

Your EXODUS Pest Control technician has a variety of products and a plan of attack to treat your specific cockroach situation. Listen to his professional advice and his plan to address your situation so that you have a thorough understanding of the treatment.

Remember that cockroach control relies upon a conscientious effort from both the pest control technician and the client. Success definitely doesn't occur overnight but following these few instructions will get you very good results within one month of EXODUS Pest Control's treatment and guarantees that you won't be living with these unwanted guests in the future!



Cockroach close-up

*"From an original female German cockroach there could be potentially more than 100,000 cockroaches in a home by the end of one year!"*



German cockroach