

Cockroach Fact Sheet



American



Oriental



German

Basic Characteristics:

American cockroaches (*Periplaneta americana*) are reddish brown, about 3 inches in length, and have wings. This species typically lives outdoors in vegetation or under mulch and find their way into homes through small openings. In the home they are attracted to bathrooms, kitchens, and laundry rooms where water and food are available.

Oriental cockroaches (*Blatta orientalis*) are shiny black and medium in size. This species, like the American cockroaches, is primarily an outdoor species that finds its way into homes through openings under doors in search of food and water.

German cockroaches (*Blattella germanica*) are small, light brown with two dark horizontal bands located just behind the head, and have wings. This species is inherently an indoor pest and thrives in warm humid areas of a structure. Commonly found in kitchens and bathrooms, German cockroaches are scavengers that feed on a wide variety items including crumbs and food left on dirty dishes as well as paper goods or soap. In multi-unit buildings German cockroaches can travel between units along plumbing, electrical lines, and ventilation ducts.

Signs of Infestation:

- Live bugs can be found hiding in
 - cracks and crevices
 - under appliances
 - in paper goods
 - cabinets and pantries
 - wall outlets
 - under sinks

- Cockroach feces and egg casing may be scattered near hiding places



Health Concerns:

Cockroaches can mechanically transmit disease causing bacteria as they move from sewers or other hiding places and come in contact with human food. The droppings, shed skins, and secretions can cause allergic reactions and increased respiratory distress, particularly in individuals with asthma.

Renter/Tenant Information

Often, cockroach issues can be resolved between tenants and landlords. We advise tenants to place a written request with their landlord for treatment of the problem and allow at least 3 days for a response. Make sure to keep a copy of your request.

If the problem is in 2 or more units, and/or a common area, and you are unsatisfied with the landlord's response to your written request, the City of Albuquerque may be able to help address the problem. Please dial 3-1-1 to place a request for assistance.

Correction Measures

Working with your landlord or an experienced pest control agency is the BEST way to completely eliminate an infestation. Treating your residence on your own with pesticide sprays or foggers may be illegal and ineffective and expose you and your family to hazardous pesticide residues.

Here are some things YOU can do in the meantime:

- 1) **Limit access to food** by placing dry goods in sealable, plastic containers, cleaning dishes immediately following use, sweeping/vacuuming on a regular basis, sealing pet food containers.
- 2) **Limit access to water** by repairing leaks.
- 3) **Vacuum or smash live bugs** then flush or discard outside of the home. Using over-the-counter products to kill roaches may cause over-exposure to chemicals and cause certain species to drop egg casings pre-maturely.
- 4) **Seal cracks and crevices** with caulking or patch holes in walls, particularly where pipes or wiring pass through.
- 5) **Replace** broken screens or worn weather stripping.
- 6) **Remove excess materials** like papers and cardboard boxes that act as hiding spaces.

More Resources

For more information on cockroaches and other insect pests log onto the City of Albuquerque website at www.cabq.gov/envhealth.

To report concerns about a cockroach infestation please dial 311 to place your complaint with our office.

Photos courtesy of: Gary Alpert, Harvard University, Bugwood.org



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