

# GERMAN COCKROACH

## IDENTIFICATION

German cockroaches are flat, oval shaped with spiny legs and long antennae. Adults grow to be 5/8 inches long. These roaches are light brown except for two dark stripes on the shield behind the head.

## HABITS

Females carry their egg capsule protruding from their abdomen until the eggs are ready to hatch. The capsule is then placed in a secluded location where the nymphs emerge one to two days later. A female may produce four to six cases during her lifetime, each containing 30 to 40 eggs. Eggs hatch in 28 to 30 days, and nymphs can develop in 40 to 125 days. Female roaches live about 200 days while males live shorter lives. The German cockroach produces more eggs and has more generations per year than other roaches, and only a few are needed to develop into troublesome infestations. German cockroaches can quickly turn into large populations in a structure and often move to kitchens and bathrooms. During the day, the roaches may be found hiding behind baseboards, moldings, in cracks around cabinets, closets or pantries, in and under stoves, refrigerators and dishwashers. German cockroaches often hitchhike into homes on egg cartons, soft drink containers, potatoes, onions, furniture, or people. These roaches can ruin food, damage wallpaper and books, eat glue from furniture, and produce an unpleasant odor. Some people are actually allergic to the German cockroach and others can get food poisoning from the bacteria these pests leave on food.



## CONTROL

A combination of several different insecticides are helpful. These insecticides include liquids, aerosols, dusts, baits, and traps. Apply these products directly into cockroach harborage areas such as behind loose baseboards, molding strips, and around pipes that run along and through the walls. Other affected areas may include around the kitchen sink, in cracks underneath cupboards and cabinets, inside motor compartment of refrigerators, behind window and door frames, in radio and TV cabinets, and around closet and bookcase shelves. Surfaces where food is prepared should not be treated. Roaches in buildings with multiple dwellings usually require the treatment of other units as well.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ALTERATIONS

Sanitation is critical in controlling German cockroaches. German cockroaches are drawn to spilled and left over foods. Cleaning of spilled food and liquids, throwing away scraps of food left on dirty dishes and counter tops, keeping food in tightly sealed containers, eliminating clutter, and rinsing cans and bottles before throwing them away are essential steps in avoiding a reoccurring infestation.

## PROVIDED SERVICES

Speed Exterminating will thoroughly treat all cockroach hiding and harborage areas. Products, such as Cessco and Bonide Flea and Roach Spray are available in the retail store for customers who prefer to do it themselves.

**For more information:**  
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216-351-2106    440-327-7777



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