

Cockroaches



Description

- Cockroaches are large insects which range in size from 10-23 mm in length.
- They have long whip-like antennae and two pairs of wings.
- The two most commonly found species in this country are the oriental Cockroach and the German Cockroach

The Oriental Cockroach

- is larger and darker brown in colour, nearly black in appearance
- Males tend to be around 25mm long and females around 30mm long.
- They are poor climbers and are tolerant of cold conditions.
- They can be found outside in drains, gardens, sewers etc a factor which

The German Cockroach

- Unlike the Oriental variety, the German Cockroach is able to climb smooth vertical surfaces.
- They are found throughout buildings, but show a preference for warm humid areas.
- They are around 15mm in length and the adult is a light brown colour, with two dark parallel stripes running lengthwise just below the insect's head.
- The female is darker than the male and both are fully winged.

Both species tend to be nocturnal. They will usually spend the day hiding in cracks and crevices around such areas as; cookers, sinks, drains and in the backs of cupboards and refrigerator motors. Both species can be found throughout the United Kingdom. Cockroaches can be imported into the home either with food or packaging, or in suitcases after a trip abroad.

Lifestyle

- Cockroaches tend to deposit eggs in egg purses, which can be a sign of their infestation. Nymphs (small replicas of adults) emerge from these egg purses, which can commonly contain between 15 and 40 young.
- Progression from the nymph stage is by moulting and speed of growth to adult depends on temperature and food conditions.

Significance

Cockroaches **are** carriers of food poisoning germs and are responsible for the spread of dysentery and gastro-enteritis. 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 food stuffs.

Control and Treatment

Professional treatment is strongly advised because of the difficulty in locating and managing any infestation. You may need more than one treatment especially if you are a Commercial premises. To assist in the management of infestations you can:

- Ensure all surfaces are clean and washed regularly with antibacterial agents before any food preparation is undertaken

- Maintain very high standards of hygiene, clearing away any food debris
- Keep food in sealed containers as far as possible

Spelthorne Borough Council provides a service for the treatment of domestic premises infested cockroaches. Please contact Spelthorne Borough Council Customer Service on 01784 451499 or alternatively e-mail customer.services@spelthorne.gov.uk