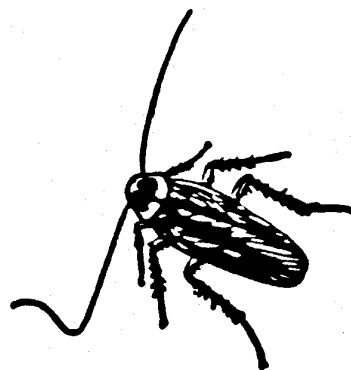




COCKROACHES

INJURY: Cockroaches are household pests found throughout the United States. Although cockroaches are traditionally associated with dirty dwellings, they are being discovered even in the "best of homes". Cockroaches are one of the oldest of insects - there are fossil remains of them dating back 200,000,000 years. They have survived such a long time because they have demonstrated outstanding ability to adapt to a wide range of habitats.

Cockroaches feed on a variety of foods, with a preference for starchy and sugary material. Cockroaches will sip milk, soda, or beer left out of the refrigerator or remaining in unrinsed bottles, nibble cheese, feed on meats, pastry-grain products, sugar -- practically all the foods that we eat. They will also feed freely on book bindings, sizing, inner linings of shoe soles, and dead insects. They carry debris on their legs and bodies and may spread germs and contaminate food. Cockroaches also give off an offensive odor that may ruin food or may persist on dishes or other items the roaches run over.



DESCRIPTION: There are four types of house-infesting roaches that are commonly seen in New York State. These are: the American cockroach, Brown-banded cockroach, German cockroach, and Oriental cockroach. Cockroaches have a broad, flattened shape and six long, spiny legs. They are dark brown, reddish-brown, light brown, or black, and the adults of most species have wings. The following describes the roaches and their habits:

American Cockroach - *Periplaneta americana*: These roaches are reddish-brown to dark brown. Adults reach 1-1/2 to 2 inches long. They develop in damp basements and sewers and forage mostly on the first floors of buildings.

Brown-Banded Cockroach - *Supella longipalpa*: These roaches are light brown with mottled reddish-brown wings on the females and lighter wings on males. Adults are 2 inches long. They develop and live throughout the building.

German Cockroach - *Blattella germanica*: (also called the croton bug or water bug): These cockroaches are light brown with black stripes running lengthwise on the back. Adults reach 5/8 inch long. The German cockroach is the most common of the four household-infesting roaches. It develops and lives all over the

building, particularly in kitchens and bathrooms.

Oriental Cockroach - *Blatta orientalis*: (also called black beetle and shad roach): These roaches are black or dark brown and traces of wings may be seen on the females; males have short wings. Adult females may reach 1-1/4 inches long, while males are typically about 1 inch. The Oriental roach is more sluggish than the three above-mentioned species. They develop in damp basements and sewers, foraging mostly on the first floors of buildings.

LIFE HISTORY: Cockroaches undergo a gradual metamorphosis, which means that there are three stages in their development: egg, nymph, and adult. The young nymphs resemble the adults, but they are smaller and have no wings.

Cockroaches hide during the day in sheltered places. They come out to look for food at night and, if disturbed, run rapidly for shelter and disappear through openings to their hiding places. Some typical hiding places for roaches include warm, dark, moist places, such as under a sink, behind a dishwasher, stove, refrigerator, and under cupboards.

MANAGEMENT: Cockroaches may enter the house from out of doors, from stores in infested containers, or from adjoining buildings or apartments. To keep them out, all cracks passing through walls and floors or cracks leading to spaces behind baseboards and doorframes should be filled with putty or plastic wood. Be sure to check areas where water and steam pipes enter the building. When you bring in baskets, bags, or cardboard boxes, look for cockroaches that may be hiding in them and destroy any that you find.

In the kitchen, keeping food in tightly sealed containers, rinsing cans and bottles before depositing them in the trash or recycling bin, and wrapping or containerizing all edible garbage waste tightly will be helpful. Transferring garbage to outdoor containers often and thus eliminating indoor storage will also reduce food sources for the roaches.

Insecticidal sprays and dusts can be used to control infestations. For best results, insecticides should be applied to places where cockroaches hide. To find hiding places, enter a dark room quietly, turn on the lights, and watch where the cockroaches run. Use sticky traps to aid control. Place them in corners and in areas where roaches have been observed. Baits and insect growth regulators (IGRs) are also available in some traps. Bait traps with boric acid are considered "least-toxic" products. Insecticides labeled for consumer use include cyfluthrin, deltamethrin, pyrethrin, resmethrin, silica gel, or tetramethrin. Apply beneath the kitchen sink, in bathrooms, and other warm and moist places. Make limited applications. Do not treat entire floors, wall or ceilings but treat only along baseboards, under cupboards, and in similar places where roaches hide. Do not treat storage places that contain food and do not treat surfaces used for the preparation of food. Repeat applications when small cockroaches appear. In apartment buildings, the entire structure should be treated by trained specialists.

Much of this information has been taken from USDA leaflet No. 430, "Cockroaches And How To Control Them".

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This publication contains pesticide recommendations. Changes in pesticide regulations occur constantly and human errors are still possible. Some materials mentioned may no longer be available, and some uses may no longer be legal. All pesticides distributed, sold, or applied in New York State must be registered with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Questions concerning the legality and/or registration status for pesticide use in New

Cockroach Control Checklist

Steps to take to exclude cockroaches from your home, eliminate their food sources, and uncover their hiding places.

Cover Food

Patch holes

Cover wastes

Caulk cracks

Remove grease

Remove shelf paper

Clean floors

Fix loose tiles

Clean wastebaskets

Caulk around windows and doors

Fix leaks

Check dampness

Remove standing water

Remove loose paint

Remove clutter

Screen vents