







The Facts on Cockroaches

Q: WHAT ARE COCKROACHES?

A: There are more than 4,000 species of cockroaches and at least 69 species can be found in the United States. The German, Oriental, Brown-banded, and American cockroaches are the most common cockroach pest species that invade homes and businesses. Cockroaches reproduce rapidly – there can be more than 10,000 descendants from a single female German cockroach in one year. German cockroaches commonly infest homes, schools, businesses, and food services areas. The less-common Brown-banded cockroach also lives indoors, but prefers warm environments and often lives near electrical appliances. The American cockroach usually lives in sewers and basements. Oriental cockroaches live outdoors but occasionally come inside. Cockroaches have six legs, two antennae, and some have wings.

GERMAN COCKROACH <i>Germanica</i>	BROWN-BANDED COCKROACH <i>longipalpa</i>	AMERICAN COCKROACH <i>americana</i>	ORIENTAL COCKROACH <i>ientalis</i>
			

Q: WHAT DO ROACHES WANT MOST?

A: Food, shelter, and water! Eliminate these as much as possible and you'll drastically reduce infestations.

Q: WHAT DO COCKROACHES DO?

A: Cockroaches are typically active at night. If you see them during the day, you have a heavy infestation. They live in cracks and crevices near food sources. They prefer to crawl along edges of counters or floors. Cockroaches tend to scatter when they sense vibrations.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP PREVENT COCKROACHES IN THE FUTURE

What you can do:

- ✓ **Deny cockroaches of food and water.** Cockroaches must have a water source and depending on their temperature or size, they can live for a month without any food but no more than a week without water.
- ✓ **Find all the water leaks in you house and fix them.**
- ✓ **Clean your house thoroughly** – a clean house is key to keeping cockroaches away and the first place to start is the kitchen. Clean from the bottom to the top of each room.
- ✓ **Clean up crumbs and spills right away.**
- ✓ **Keep food containers sealed and don't leave food out for extended periods.**
- ✓ **Take out your trash regularly**
- ✓ **Schedule a professional treatment for cockroaches if you have spotted them in your home or business by calling Preferred Pest Control at 816-279-2000.**

Cockroach droppings, secretions, cast skins, and dead bodies can cause allergies and can trigger asthma attacks, especially in children. They can also spread 33 kind of bacteria, six kinds of parasitic worms, and at least seven other kinds of human pathogens. Cockroaches are the second most common cause of allergies. They can pick up germs on the spines of their legs and bodies as they crawl through decaying matter and sewage and then carry these into food or onto food surfaces.

FACTS ABOUT COCKROACHES:

- Cockroaches have been around since the time of the dinosaurs!
- Some female cockroaches only mate once and stay pregnant for life.
- A cockroach can live for up to one week without its head!
- Cockroaches can hold their breath up to 40 minutes.
- Cockroaches can run up to 3 miles per hour.
- Cockroaches can eat their own waste and their own deceased.
- There are species of roaches on every continent except Antarctica.
- Some cockroaches can grow over 3 inches long!
- Some cockroaches are kept as pets – Madagascar hissing cockroaches!
- Cockroaches can withstand 10 times more radiation than a person, but they would not survive a nuclear event.
- Roaches can live anywhere between a few months to a couple of years, depending on the species.