

COCKROACH : Facts and Notes | Control | Prevention

Facts and Notes

Wherever man can survive, so can cockroaches. Cockroaches are born scavengers. They acquire pathogenic bacteria simply by walking over cultures and these pathogens are subsequently transferred to foodstuffs during the normal foraging behavior of the infested roach. The worldwide estimate of the number of cockroaches is given as 3,500 species, but in KAUST, less than 5 species were identified.

Indoor cockroaches like the *Blattella germanica* can be introduced through infested cartons from outside. This species is fond of starchy materials, such as cereals, sweetened or sugary substances and meat products. Hence sanitation and checking of grocery items are highlighted as a method of control.

While the American cockroaches (*Periplaneta americana*), this are commonly found in sewers and basements, particularly around pipelines. But when seen inside, that is sign that infestation is high.

Types of cockroaches



Pest control procedures in managing pests

1. Assess the area. Conduct thorough inspection to identify the breeding source, ingress point and the roaches species.
2. Implement control following the applicable IPM principles, starting with;
 - **Cultural control** – removal of food sources and reduce clutter. Clean surface with any all-purpose cleaning agent. Keep food at sealed container.
 - **Mechanical control** – a pheromone glue trap may help for minor issue and for monitoring. Install it at areas where cockroach commonly hide.
 - **Chemical control** – pesticides selection and control method are based on range of activity and species. Following product label claims, consider below:
 - For lighter issue, try to solve with aerosol spray (e.g. PifPaf) from the local market. This can be followed with least-toxic bait like Trap A-Roach glue trap or Advion Gel - Indoxacarb 0.6% (WHO Class: II, Local Reg.: 205-12-1272).
 - At severe infestation, use highly diluted solution with Tandem ZC - Thiamethoxam 11.6% EC (WHO Class: II, Local Reg.: 204-143-180) and target the cracks and crevices where roaches are hiding.
 - To control American cockroach, breeding sites like sewer manhole should be monitored at least quarterly. Apply Deltamethrin 0.05% DP (WHO Class: II, Local Reg.: 351-36-1292) powder if needed.
3. Monitor the condition after applying the control and keep record for tracking.

What you can do to prevent roaches at home

- Keep left over food in sealed container and always clean the surface to remove food scraps and residue.
- Check your groceries, container like carton may carry cockroach.
- Make it a habit to use a good detergent to clean kitchen areas every night before going to bed.
- Watch for first sign of roaches and contact 959 immediately for Pest Control assistance.