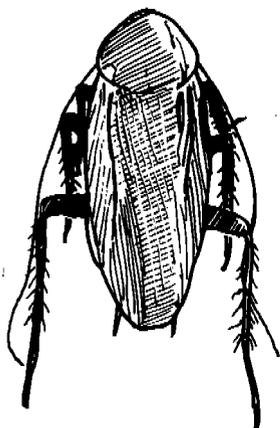




## Cockroach Control



- ◆ Behavior Patterns
- ◆ Chemical Control

Cockroaches are unwanted pests. And, because cockroaches contaminate food and food utensils with their excrement and saliva and disease organisms, their control is crucial.

### BEHAVIOR PATTERNS

Most types of cockroaches live outdoors, although some are well adapted to living indoors with humans. While they prosper in polluted areas, even the most clean and sanitary areas are at risk of infestation.

Cockroaches are primarily nocturnal and appear during the day usually when disturbed or when large populations exist and they seek additional harborage (hiding places). Indoors, they prefer warm, dark, humid shelters, such as cracks under or inside cabinets; behind window or door frames; in bathrooms; in motor compartments of appliances; or around the kitchen and bathroom sink. Outdoors, cockroaches find harborage in decorative bark, leaf litter, and in sewer manholes.

While cockroaches feed on a wide variety of food items, including starchy foods, baked goods, and meat, some also enjoy a feast of leather, wallpaper paste, and book bindings.

### CONTROL

It is easier to prevent a cockroach infestation than to control an established population. Cleanliness and the **elimination** of harbor-age sites lessens the possibility of cockroaches entering the home. However, should an invasion occur, a variety of control measures should be taken to eliminate any infestation.

Prevention . . . the best technique.

All cockroaches require food, water, and harborage. Denying cockroaches from any of these essential elements will cause their demise.

Exclusion.

Maintain tight **fitting** doors and window screens in good repair. Check the thresholds at the bottom of your entrance doors to see if they fit tightly. If not, contact the proper maintenance personnel for obtaining repairs. Use air-tight containers for food (including pet food) items. Caulk cracks and crevices along kitchen splash boards and around window and door frames. Contact your local self-help store or maintenance personnel for caulking and repainting door thresholds. Use trash receptacles with tight **fitting** lids. Rinse out and recycle aluminum or glass containers and store them and other recyclable items in containers with **tight** fitting lids.

Sanitation.

Maintain good sanitation. Clean up spills. Do not leave "dirty" dishes in the sink or on kitchen counters overnight. Pet food dishes should also be emptied each evening.

Harborage location.

Cockroaches and their likely habitats must be identified to achieve effective control. Several simple techniques exist for determining harborage sites. One method is to locate where cockroaches are hiding by using a flashlight after darkness occurs. Cockroach traps are another

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NIOSH Form 536, 1 Dec 92 (HS/HD-C5)

**very effective** method to **find** cockroach harborage. These traps are nontoxic **and** contain a **sticky** adhesive coating inside. The cockroaches enter the trap and become immobilized. **All** installations are required to have a self-help pest management program which should include these cockroach **sticky** traps. The number of traps required will depend on the size of the area and the extent of the infestation. Normally about six traps per home are adequate. Place traps in paths between the cockroaches' hiding places and feeding areas. Examples of locations include under kitchen appliances; in kitchen and storage room cabinets; washrooms; and in cabinets under bathroom and kitchen sinks. If no cockroaches are captured after three or four nights, move the trap to another location. In addition to recognizing all known or suspected cockroach habitats and harborage, inspection of incoming materials, such as dry cleaning, **groceries**, or luggage can prevent infestations.

Keep in mind, cockroach trapping will not usually eliminate large cockroach populations. When combined with preventive measures, however, trapping can limit the number of cockroaches entering the home and constrain indoor breeding. Trapping is effective in identifying hiding places, monitoring the severity of the infestation, detecting populations where insecticide treatment is necessary, and assists in identifying the different types of cockroaches.

#### Identification.

Identify the type of cockroaches. Different species of cockroaches have different preferred harborage sites. By knowing the type (species), control efforts can be much more

**effective.** For obtaining information **on** cockroach identification, contact the installation self-help store, pest control shop, preventive medicine service, or health clinic.

#### Insecticides.

Insecticides can effectively control cockroach populations when combined with other control techniques. However, consider the following items to get the most from **insecticide** applications.

- ◆ Perform all housekeeping duties prior to applying insecticides to reduce washing off applied **insecticides**.
- ◆ Before applying insecticides, read the instructions on the product labels.
- ◆ Identify the cockroaches harborage sites. Carefully apply insecticides directly into the cracks, crevices, and voids where cockroaches occur. Treating these areas ensures that most of the cockroach population is affected. Be sure to not over apply insecticides. **Over-**application is dangerous to your health and may hinder control efforts by repelling cockroaches.
- ◆ Contact the installation **self-**help store for obtaining guidance and **effective** insecticides for resolving cockroach infestations. All installations are required to maintain a self-help pest management program.  
HINT: All self-help stores are authorized to distribute cockroach sticky traps and boric acid insecticide dust. This insecticide dust is one of the

**safest** and most **effective materials** available to building occupants and professional pest control applicators.

◆ Treat outdoor populations as well as indoor infestations. Since cockroaches invade homes from the outside, they may reinfest the home once the insecticide disappears. This reinforces the need for **tight fitting** door thresholds.

◆ Remove all cockroach **access** routes by caulking harborage sites after treating the sites with an insecticide.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

For additional assistance regarding cockroach control, contact your local pest control shop, preventive medicine service, or health clinic.