



# City of Westminster

## Pest Information

**FREE PHONE:  
0800 3580514**

### Cockroaches



German Cockroach



Oriental Cockroach

#### **What are they?**

There are two types of cockroach commonly found in this country the German cockroach and the Oriental Cockroach. They are quite large insects, which can be distinguished by their size and colour. The female Oriental cockroach can produce up to five egg capsules. These capsules are 12mm in length and each contain up to sixteen eggs, which will hatch between six and twelve weeks later. The German cockroach can produce four to eight capsules at monthly intervals. The 6mm long egg capsules are smaller than the Oriental cockroach, but contain up to thirty eggs

#### **Where do they live?**

Cockroaches can be found infesting all types of buildings from blocks of flats to industrial premises, and particularly kitchen areas. They are nocturnal and spend most of the day hiding in cracks and crevices around such areas as sinks, drains, cookers, skirting boards, service ducts and fridge motor compartments.

### **How do I know if I've got Cockroaches?**

Cockroaches are nocturnal, so they are mainly active at night or when it is dark. Apart from seeing live insects other signs of cockroach infestation may include a smell, small spindle shaped droppings (similar to mouse droppings, but usually much smaller) cast skins and dead cockroach bodies.

### **What do they eat?**

Cockroaches will feed on almost anything ranging from faecal matter to food intended for human consumption. As a result cockroaches have been found to carry disease-causing bacteria on their bodies. These bacteria are then transferred onto anything the cockroach touches.

### **Preventative measures**

As cockroaches will feed on any food source including filth it is vital that premises be kept spotlessly clean and that there is no food sources or hiding places. Do not leave household waste where cockroaches can get at it. Food and food waste should be stored in sealed containers. Have a good housekeeping system for any indoor pets. Poor housekeeping can easily result in a cockroach infestation. Plug all small cracks around baseboards, cupboards, pipes, sinks and water heaters with latex or silicone sealant. Larger holes will need to be patched.

### **Can I treat them myself?**

It is always best to employ professional help when treating cockroaches as the treatments available to professionals are far more effective than those that are available to the general public, but there are insecticides that you can purchase from your local hardware store if you wish to carry out treatment yourself. Insecticides which can offer a knock down and residual effect are best. In addition to spray treatments you could also treat the areas that the cockroaches have infested by using sticky traps which will help you identify the areas of your home affected as well as an aid to identify the insect .

[When using pesticides always read and follow the instructions on the label.](#)

### **Health & Safety**

If treatments are to be carried out you will be issued with a 'Notice to Occupier' form detailing important and Health & Safety information. You are required to sign for these forms. All pesticides used by us have been passed by DEFRA. It is the policy of this unit to use the safest and least toxic chemicals that have the minimal impact on the environment. Whilst providing the most effective and efficient treatment of infestations. You may remain present during the application of 'gels' and bait stations. However, In the case of spray applications it is preferable that you vacate the premises for approximately 20 minutes. Or, In the case of Ultra Low Volume (ULV) applications you must vacate the premises for approximately 2 – 4 hours

All efforts are made to place pesticides in the safest locations, the type of pest and layout of dwellings often dictate the actual positions of pesticides. It is your responsibility to ensure children and pets are kept well away from pesticides. (Fish tanks are to be covered during treatment).

### **How can I get rid of Cockroaches?**

Call City of Westminster Council Pest Control Team **Free Phone 0800 3580514.**

### **Treatment**

Fully trained and qualified council pest control officers will survey the premises; poison bait stations / gels will be placed in the most appropriate and safe locations. In rare case a ULV treatment as described above may be used. The officer will explain the treatment and processes to you. You will be issued a **Notice to Occupier** form detailing which poisons have been left in the property; keep this in a safe place for reference for emergency services should the need arise. You may also be given advice on house-keeping which may assist the treatment. Any follow up appointments will be arranged with you at the end of each visit.

### **Post Treatment**

Most Cockroach gel treatments work by attacking the 'skin' of the cockroach while most wet based sprays attack the nervous system of the cockroach. Some treatments have an attractant and you will see an increase in activity around the treated areas which is perfectly normal. Do not try to kill these ants yourself as this will prevent the treatment from reaching more cockroaches. The increase in activity may occur for a short period after each treatment. Depending on the circumstances most cockroach infestations take between a six to twelve weeks to control.

**Failing to report** a Cockroach infestation is not wise; Cockroaches do not disappear of their own accord. If you believe you have a cockroach infestation in your property, please contact City of Westminster Council Pest Control Team.

