

# Cockroach Facts

## Jump to Section

### ➤ Species

There may be as many as 12 - 40 eggs in each egg capsule.

The female cockroach may produce one every six weeks.

Nymphs (young cockroaches) can reach adulthood in 6 weeks.

A cockroach's life span may be from a few months to a year and the female can produce 5 to 30 egg cases in this time.

## Health

Some people are allergic to cockroaches. They can cause asthma in asthmatics. Allergens may be ingested where foods are contaminated with droppings or inhaled when dried droppings become part of the house dust.

## Disease

Organisms that cause Gastroenteritis, dysentery, hepatitis and typhoid fever may be transmitted by cockroaches to humans.

## ***"What are the habits of cockroaches?"***

Cockroaches are scavengers and will eat almost anything, dead animals, vegetable materials, cardboard, fabrics, glue, hair and book bindings.

Contamination of food and cooking utensils with droppings, egg cases and secretions pose a health hazard.

Mostly nocturnal cockroaches will hide during the day and become active at night and will quickly disappear if disturbed. Therefore homeowners may not be aware that they have a cockroach problem.

Cockroaches generally like to hide in tight cracks and crevices, which offer security and have a tendency to congregate together.

Unpleasant odours may be experienced in large infestations of cockroaches.

If cockroaches are seen during the day it usually indicates a serious infestation.

### ***"So What do I do?"***

There are many things that you can do to help control cockroach infestations

#### **Hygiene**

Keep all food and rubbish in sealed containers particularly if left over night

Keep kitchens clean especially around sinks and be sure to wipe up any spills particularly grease and fats and other foods.

Ensure that pet feeding bowls and areas are kept clean and free of old food scraps

#### **Physical Control**

Seal all cracks and crevices to deny harbourage areas to cockroaches.

Avoid storing cartons in the home overnight because this is a common source of cockroach harbourage.

Avoid storing foodstuffs on the floor.

Fixes leaking pipes and empty refrigerator drip trays regularly.

Use old food stocks first to ensure that any contaminated stock is discovered before it becomes a problem.

If red wine or other sweet drinks are left out overnight you will be able to see the extent of the cockroach problem.

### ***"What do I do if I already have a problem?"***

Good house keeping is necessary prior to any treatments being carried out.

As an alternative to pesticides try using Borax powder in the areas that you have found the cockroaches i.e. under fridge's, in cupboards and around electrical fittings.

You may also mix Borax powder with jam to use it as bait. **Be sure to keep any bait out of the reach of children and pets.**

If applying insecticides be sure to follow the directions on the label. This will ensure that you are taking the appropriate measures to protect you and your families health.

Dusts should be used around electrical fittings such as fridge motors.

## SPECIES

**Jump to Section:**

➤ [Top](#)



### **German cockroach**

*Blattella germanica*

**Habitat:** warm moist environment common in kitchens and restaurants

**Preferred Temperature:** 30°C

**Oothecae produced per female:** 4-8

**Incubation period per oothecae:** Approx. 17 days

**Eggs per oothecae:** Approx. 37

**Period of nymphal development**                      Male:   Approx.40 days

Female: Approx 41 days

**Average adult life-span**                      Male:   128 days

Female: 153 days

**Length of adult:** 10 – 15mm

**Distribution:** Worldwide



### **American cockroach**

*Periplaneta Americana*

**Habitat:** Warm moist environment common in restaurants, bakeries and food preparation areas. Often commonly associated with drains and sewers.

**Preferred temperature:** 30 - 33°C

**Oothecae produced per female:** Approx. 30

**Incubation period per oothecae:** 25 – 40 days

**Eggs per oothecae:** 14 - 28

**Period of nymphal development:** Male: 130 – 150 days

Female: 130 – 150 days

**Average adult life span:** 250 – 350 days, males shorter lived than females

**Length of adult:** 28 – 44mm

**Distribution:** Worldwide



### **Australian cockroach**

*Periplaneta australasiae*

**Habitat:** Warm, moist environment common in food preparation areas

**Preferred temperature:** 30 – 36°C

**Oothecae produced per female:** 20 - 30

**Incubation period per oothecae:** Approx. 40 days

**Eggs per oothecae:** Approx. 24

**Period of nymphal development:** Male: 180 – 270 days

Female: 180 – 270 days

**Average adult life span:** 120 – 180 days

**Length of adult:** 30 – 35mm

**Distribution:** Worldwide



### **Smoky-brown cockroach**

*Periplaneta fuliginosa*

**Habitat:** Warm, moist environment. Common out of doors in garages and outhouses from where it invades houses.

**Preferred temperature:** 30 – 33°C

**Oothecae produced per female:** 20 - 30

**Incubation period per oothecae:** 40 – 70 days

**Eggs per oothecae:** 20

**Period of nymphal development:** Male: Approx. 180 -200 days

Female: Approx. 180 – 200 days

**Average adult life span:** 250 – 300days

**Length of adult:** 30 – 35mm

**Distribution:** Various including North America and Australia



### **The Oriental cockroach**

*Blatta orientalis*

**Habitat:** Cool, damp environment common in basements and cellars. Large numbers may be found around water sources such as baths or sinks.

**Preferred temperature:** 20 – 25°C

**Oothecae produced per female:** 5 - 10

**Incubation period per oothecae:** 40 – 80 days

**Eggs per oothecae:** Approx. 18

**Period of nymphal development:** Male: Approx. 180 days

Female: Approx. 300 days

Can be up to 500 days at low temperature

**Average adult life span:** 60 – 250 days depending on temperature

**Length of adult:** 20 – 24mm

**Distribution:** Temperate climates worldwide



### **Brown-banded cockroach**

*Supella longipalpa*

**Habitat:** warm environment. Common both indoors and out of doors. This species becomes widely distributed throughout an infested property

**Preferred temperature:** 20 – 25°C

**Oothecae produced per female:** 5 - 10

**Incubation period per oothecae:** 40 – 80 days

**Eggs per oothecae:** Approx. 18

**Period of nymphal development:** Male: 50 – 60 days

Female: 50 – 60 days

**Average adult life span:** Male: 115 days

Female: 90 days

**Length of adult:** 13 – 14mm

**Distribution:** Worldwide



### **Giant Deaths Head cockroach**

*Blaberus craniifer*

**Habitat:** Warm moist environment, usually out of doors, associated with rotting vegetation. Occasionally enters houses.

**Preferred temperature:** 28 – 33°C

**Oothecae produced per female:** Approx. 20

**Incubation period per oothecae:** Approx 40 days

**Eggs per oothecae:** 34

**Period of nymphal development:** Male: 260 – 280 days

Female: 260 – 280 days

**Average adult life span:** Male: Approx. 400 days

Female: Approx 500 days

**Length of adult:** 50 -55 mm

**Distribution:** American tropics

### **Jump to Section:**

- [Top](#)
- [Species](#)