

Cockroaches

Problems They Cause

Cockroaches are defined as a **public health insect** due to the pathogens that they transmit (such as salmonella and e coli). Therefore, it is important to seek professional advice if you have a cockroach infestation in your home or business.

Cockroaches will feed on almost anything, including refuse, faecal matter and food for human consumption. They often live in **unsanitary places** where they can pick up pathogenic bacteria. Cockroaches will infest anywhere from houses, to restaurants and hospitals. Cockroach faecal material contains a pheromone that tells other cockroaches that the area is a good place to harbour. Large numbers of cockroaches may gather in areas where faecal material has accumulated. These areas are called aggregation points.

Commercial Control Methods

- Once the level of infestation has been identified we will deploy a variety of application techniques and methods to provide a comprehensive cockroach treatment, including; crack and crevice treatments, void treatments and toxic baits. We also have the capability of deploying our specialist heat treatment service to resolve the infestation.



German Cockroach



Oriental Cockroach

Pest Biology

There are **two main species** of cockroaches in Britain are the Oriental and German cockroach.

German Cockroach – 12-15mm long and ginger colour with two dark longitudinal stripes on pronotum.

They prefer warm environments, particularly heating systems in large buildings. They can move very fast and they climb smooth walls and ceilings with ease. Each egg capsule will contain around 32 nymphal cockroaches so spread very quickly.

Oriental Cockroach – 17-30mm long and is dark brown to black in colour.

They are not able to climb smooth vertical surfaces but they can still move rapidly. They can burrow their egg capsules which can hatch up to 9 months later, depending on temperature. Their rate of reproduction is not as fast as the German cockroach. Both species are active at night, and in the daytime they hide away in tiny cracks and crevices.

What you can do to help

Good hygiene and a thorough cleansing of your premises are essential in preventing infestations.

- Keep all opened foodstuffs in tightly sealed containers
- Keep surfaces, food preparation areas and floors as clean as possible. Clean kitchen areas intensively, focusing on areas where grease accumulates
- Clear up and wash up after every meal and do not leave food lying around, especially overnight
- Remove rubbish regularly from inside, all rubbish should be stored in sealed bins
- Ensure any indoor manhole access is sealed

