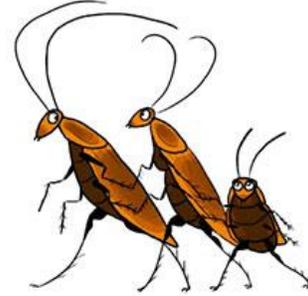


# A BIT ABOUT COCKROACHES



- There are over 3,500 different cockroach species worldwide. In Ontario, the most common species of cockroaches are the German cockroach and Oriental cockroach.
- German cockroaches are light brown in colour. They have two dark streaks running from their head to their wings. They measure from about 1 to 1.5 cm (3/8 to 5/8 inches) long. These are the most common cockroach species found in buildings.
- Oriental cockroaches are larger than the German cockroach. They measure from about 2 to 3 cm (approx. 1 inch) long. They are dark brown or black in colour and appear glossy.
- Despite having wings, German and Oriental cockroaches seldom fly. They crawl quickly and hitchhike on items such as cardboard boxes, luggage, in containers with food and vegetables, and in infested equipment such as used toasters and microwaves. In a building, bed bugs can move between apartments along water pipes, under doors or through other holes and openings.
- Cockroach droppings (poop) are black and look like specs of pepper or coffee grounds. Signs of cockroaches include cockroach droppings, live or dead cockroaches, or egg casings that are oblong and brown in colour.
- Once in a building, cockroaches live near sources of food, water and warmth. Kitchens and bathrooms are favourite places for cockroaches.



Photos: P.G. Koehler  
University of Florida

- When populations become large and food is scarce, cockroaches can be found in bedrooms and other less likely places.
- Cockroaches hide during the day in sheltered places, such as under a sink, or behind a dishwasher, stove, refrigerator or cupboards. They prefer to crawl along the edges of counters, walls and floors.
- Cockroaches come out at night to look for food. If disturbed, they run for shelter and disappear into their hiding places. If you see cockroaches during the day, it is usually a sign of a heavy infestation.
- Cockroaches feed on almost anything. They will eat soap, glue, toothpaste, leather, fabric, grease and any food items. Their favourite foods are starchy or sugary items. Cockroaches can survive for weeks without food or water.
- Established cockroach infestations have an oily, musty smell.
- Cockroaches can carry disease-causing bacteria. Particles from their droppings (bug poop), shells and eggs can cause allergic and asthmatic reactions in some people.
- Trying to get rid of cockroaches on your own can make the problem worse for you and other residents of your building:
  - Many cockroaches have developed a resistance to the pesticides available in retail stores.
  - Using repellent sprays will scatter the cockroaches, making them harder to find and kill.
- Cockroaches reproduce very quickly. One female cockroach and her offspring can produce thousands of cockroaches in just one year.

**Preventing and controlling pests takes the cooperation of residents, building management and a pest control professional.**

**Do you think your apartment might have cockroaches?  
Contact your building manager immediately.**

Produced in co-operation with

