



Adult German Cockroach

# COCKROACHES

Roaches enter homes looking for food and water and may cause food-borne illness and allergies.

Cockroaches have been on earth over 300 million years. They easily adapt to living near humans and readily enter homes looking for food and water.

Roaches emerge at night carrying with them many disease-causing organisms and depositing them on food items left out.

Cockroach waste and body shedding may also cause allergies and is linked to asthma.

## Prevention

- Store food in sealed containers
- Wrap food trash in newspaper before throwing it away
- Don't leave dirty dishes in the sink overnight
- Seal up cracks and areas around pipes
- Repair and weather strip doors and windows

## Roaches of Santa Clara County

**German Cockroaches** (*Blattella germanica*) are a half inch long and tan to brown. They have two distinctive dark brown bars on their head. They are normally found in kitchens and bathrooms and are the most troublesome and widespread species in the United States.

**American Cockroaches** (*Periplaneta americana*) are two inches long and reddish brown. The edges of their head area (pronotum) have lighter markings. They like warm humid areas and are often found associated with sewers, water boxes, drains, and subways.

**Oriental Cockroaches** (*Blatta orientalis*) are one and a half inches long and shiny dark brown or black. They like cool wet places and are often found outside.

All roaches lay egg cases called oothecae. From each ootheca, dozens of roach nymphs can emerge. Nymphs look like smaller versions of adults but have no wings.

German Cockroach



American Cockroach



Oriental Cockroach



Nymphs and Oothecae



## Habitat

- In cracks
- Under cement foundations
- Crawlspace or basements
- In cupboards, shelves, or drawers
- Under stoves or refrigerators or other large appliances

## Control

Sprays only provide temporary control; instead try the following:

- Use bait and bait stations in cabinets or anywhere cockroaches feed
- Place sticky traps on surfaces where cockroaches are found
- Dust desiccant powders onto dry areas to dry cockroaches out
- Vacuum using a HEPA filter to remove roaches and roach material. Immediately seal the bag in a container for disposal

