

CALIFORNIA AMERICAN

EXTERMINATOR

## GERMAN COCKROACH FACT SHEET



### about us

With excellent service in the pest control industry, California American Exterminator is the trusted Bay Area company for your extermination needs.

Our company understands that cockroaches are a sensitive issue that requires property, tenant, and pest control cooperation. We work alongside you to develop a cockroach treatment plan specified for your property's needs.

### about roaches

Cockroaches are one of the most successful insects known in the evolution of the planet and are thought to have been associated with human populations since the time of the cave dwellers. German cockroaches vary in color from light brown to almost black and has two dark parallel streaks running from the head to the base of the wings. The adults have wings but seldom fly, preferring to run over taking flight.



Adult German cockroaches are 1/2 to 5/8 inch long and can be best identified by two dark parallel lines running from the back of the head to the wings.

They are a small cockroach, measuring only about 0.51 to 0.63 inches long. The baby roaches (*nymphs*) are similar in appearance to adults but lack wings and are smaller in size.

German cockroaches are nocturnal, meaning mostly active at night. They prefer dark, warm, and moist areas mostly associated with kitchens and bathrooms, but they can move to other areas of a home if it has the right conditions.

German cockroaches are scavengers. They are known to feed on a wide variety of foods, preferring starches, sweets, grease, and meat products. In many locations, garbage and filth are their principal food source.

## do you know how to spot a cockroach infestation?

### • Droppings

German cockroach droppings are small and can appear to be a brown or black color. They are often described as having a coffee-grind or pepper-like appearance as they are usually dark spots or smears. These fecal marks are found everywhere cockroaches are, but can often be spotted in the corners of rooms, along door frames, and around openings in walls.

### • Egg capsules

A German cockroach egg capsule (*ootheca*) is brown, somewhat cylindrical pod. It is typically about 7-9 mm long and can contain up to 48 eggs per capsule. Female German cockroaches carry their egg capsule for about 1-2 days before dropping it. These egg capsules are often found where female cockroaches frequent.



A female German cockroach with her egg capsule still intact.

### • Odor

German cockroaches are widely known to secrete, what many describe as an "oily" or "musty" odor. While this scent is usually mild in large populations, it can be a tell-tale sign of an infestation.

## treatment

In order to control any pest it is important to follow an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach. This means, along with the use of effective products, it is crucial to practice good housekeeping during a cockroach control program. This includes eliminating food and harborage areas.

In addition to addressing harborage and sanitation issues, our treatment process for German cockroaches includes the use of various baits, non-repellent spray treatments, and insect growth regulators. Another non-chemical treatment can include vacuuming, to remove both live and dead roaches as well as the egg capsules. Baiting is an effective method to control or eliminate German cockroaches. Baits can provide a high level of control when applied to those areas where cockroaches harbor. The use of repellent insecticidal sprays or aerosol foggers within a structure is of little value in controlling German cockroaches. In fact, these applications may disperse the cockroaches making control difficult and lengthy.



## prevention

Prevention is an important part of pest control. Often German cockroaches are brought into homes hidden in grocery bags, boxes, used appliances, and other infested items. It is crucial to carefully inspect items prior to bringing them in your home to help prevent an infestation.

## tips for success



### Getting rid of clutter

is extremely important. This helps eliminate harborage areas for the cockroaches.



### Do not store plastic or paper bags next to the refrigerator

Bags can provide harborage sites for cockroaches.



### Keep dishes washed and put away

This limits potential food sources for the cockroaches.



### Put all food away each night

This can help eliminate potential food sources for the cockroaches.



### Take garbage out daily

Taking out the trash can limit potential food sources and areas of harborage for the cockroaches.



### Wipe down counters daily

Cleaning up any spills, crumbs, or food residue limits potential food sources for cockroaches.

Vacuuming or sweeping up dead roaches and egg capsules, then flushing or disposing of them in an outdoor dumpster are easy ways to make a dent in the population.

Residents are a key component to the control of cockroach infestations. Control can only be achieved when we all work together!

## questions

Feel free to call our office to discuss treatment options and identify the cockroach issue your property is facing.



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