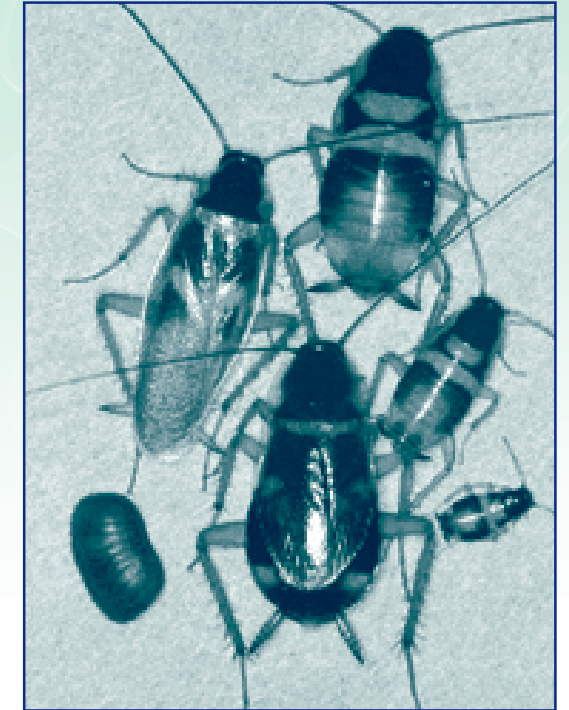


Questions & Answers about Cockroaches



Q&A

Pesticide & Plant Pest
Management Division
www.michigan.gov/mda

Ask questions about what a company will do. If they use pesticides, ask to see their Michigan pesticide applicator's license and write down the license number. Find out what they recommend to protect children, pets and family members.

How can I keep roaches out?

Even if a building has many roaches, you CAN help keep roaches out of your living area by doing these things:

Clean and repair

the areas where you find cockroaches. Put caulk in cracks along floors, add screens to floor drains, paint cracks in cabinets to seal; them. Pay special attention to vacuuming and washing cracks where dust and food fall.

Dry up wet areas

Repair leaky faucets or drains that create moist spots. Remove pet water dishes at night.

Keep all food in containers with tight lids. Keep tables, counters, sinks and floors clean; wipe off spilled food and keep things dry.

Remove clutter

to make cleaning easier and to get rid of hiding places for roaches.



Make cleaning and repairs a group effort

In apartments or group housing, ask your neighbors to do what you are doing to their living areas. That will help everyone to keep cockroaches out.

REMEMBER

If you try these things and still have a problem, get help or more advice from professional pest control companies or resource agencies.

Cockroach baits, sprays, liquids & powders, and other pesticides are poisons. Keep kids and pets away from pesticides. Store pesticides in locked cabinets or out of reach, and store them away from food.

If someone is poisoned by pesticides, don't delay!

Call the **Poison Control Center** at 1-800-764-7661.

Keep this number with your emergency phone numbers.

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What do cockroaches look like?



Look for 6 legs and 2 long antennae; some have wings; they are reddish-brown, grey-tan, dark brown or black. Roaches are about 1/2 inch to 1 1/2 inches long.

There are many kinds of cockroaches. The American, Oriental, Brownbanded and German roaches are most common in Michigan. Cockroaches are sometimes called other names like waterbugs or palmetto bugs.

You may also find cockroach eggs. Eggs are contained in oval 'casings', about 1/4 to 1/3 of an inch long. They are light to dark brown or black, but may look dusty. Roaches carry egg casings attached to their bodies, or drop them in out of the way places.



Where do they live?

All cockroaches like warmth and moisture. They like tight places where their bodies touch the top and bottom-places like very small cracks between walls and floors, or in cabinets. Cockroaches follow edges along the wall and floor, along counters, in cabinets or containers.

They eat many things-food crumbs, glues, paints, garbage, soiled laundry, soap.

Cockroaches move around at night; if you see roaches during the day, there are probably a lot of them around.

You can find them in wet wood piles, under porches, in floor cracks, behind counters or cabinets, behind stoves or refrigerators, in floor drains, under bathroom or kitchen sinks, in furnace rooms, behind air vents.

Different kinds of roaches prefer different places. American roaches like warm, damp spots like basements or furnace rooms. Brownbanded cockroaches may be found anywhere, even in drawers. German cockroaches are usually found in areas with food, warmth and moisture such as kitchens and baths.

Are cockroaches harmful?

Roaches aren't pleasant to have around, but they won't bite or sting you. Cockroaches crawl through waste and garbage, so they may pick up and spread bacteria and diseases.

Some adults and children are allergic to cockroaches, and there can be a bad odor in areas with a lot of roaches. If you or your child already has asthma, exposure to cockroaches may cause asthma attacks.

How can I get rid of cockroaches?

Using more than one control method is usually best. Some methods work better for certain kinds of roaches. Find where they are hiding, kill or remove them, take away their food and water, and keep them from coming back. Some control methods take time to work. If you have a lot of roaches, it may take a few weeks, a month or longer to get rid of them.

Control Methods

Remember that just killing cockroaches won't keep them from coming back. You need to find ways to keep them out.

Traps

Use roach traps to find out where the roaches are hiding. If you find large numbers of roaches in your trap, the roaches are probably living or feeding nearby. If you have a lot of roaches, using traps alone probably won't get rid of the roaches.

Traps usually have a bait to attract the roaches. Sometimes that bait is a poison, so keep traps away from children and pets. Some traps work better for certain kinds of roaches; try a different trap if yours doesn't work well.

Put traps in the paths that roaches use along the edges of walls or cabinets. You may need to use a lot of them (about 2 or 3 every 100 square feet.)

If you have only a few roaches, you can kill them by stepping on them. Use a soapy sponge to wipe them up. You can use a heavy duty vacuum to sweep them up; they should suffocate in the dust of the bag. Throw out the bag to make sure they don't escape.



Pesticides

If you use pesticides to kill roaches, use the least "toxic" pesticides available. These pesticides will be labeled with the word "Caution." Never use any pesticide that does not have a label attached to the container. In your home, use only chemicals labeled for killing cockroaches indoors.

Pesticides are poisons, so use them carefully. Follow label directions. Don't use pesticides around food or on food preparation surfaces. Keep kids and pets away from areas where pesticides are applied.

Beware of "miracle products" that promise to control cockroaches instantly and forever. These products may be illegal, and could be harmful to you or your family if used in or around your home.

The following pesticides will kill cockroaches and pose less risk to people and pets when used properly:

Boric acid is a powder used in cracks. Roaches walk through it, get in on their bodies, and eat it. A light dusting is all you need. Buy a product with a nozzle you can squirt into a crack.

Baits are used to attract and poison roaches when they eat them. They can be purchased in containers that are pet and child-proof. You may need to set out several containers in the area. Keep them out of reach of children and pets. You can hire a professional pest control company to help you.