

COCKROACHES

A word that no one wants to hear, but everyone should be aware of is cockroach. Cockroaches can be found in homes any time of the year, but hopefully never. These insects can cause a real bad infestation problem in your home. We all need to be aware of the problems, how to identify cockroaches, and how to control them if they get into our homes.

There are four main types of cockroaches that we may sometimes find in our homes; German cockroaches, oriental cockroaches, brown-banded cockroaches, and American cockroaches. These are the four species that can become quite numerous and be very invasive in our homes, if they find their way in initially.

German cockroaches are small, light brown roaches with two black stripes that run length-wise down their pronotum, or the area behind their head. These cockroaches are most commonly found in the kitchen or in the bathroom. German cockroaches are one of the two most common cockroaches found in the home and they can multiply very quickly. The second most common is the oriental cockroach.

Oriental cockroaches are a slightly larger cockroach than the German roach, typically. Oriental cockroaches are also a shiny black color. Oriental cockroaches are typically found in basements of homes because they prefer to live in an environment that is cool and damp.

Another, less commonly found, cockroach is the Brownbanded cockroach. Brownbanded cockroaches are so named because they are dark brown in color with two lighter brown bands across their abdomen. These cockroaches are commonly found in kitchens and bathrooms, but can also be found in living rooms and bedrooms.

The fourth kind of cockroach that you may find in your home is the American cockroach. These are more often found in restaurants, grocery stores, and hotels. This cockroach is also the largest of the common cockroaches to be found in Nebraska. American cockroaches are a reddish-brown color and will fly readily, unlike the other cockroaches that do not typically fly around your home.

It is important to control cockroaches if they get into your home because they reproduce often and tend to grow in population size quickly. They also can spread germs to humans that cause diseases. When a cockroach is in your home, it will dig through your trash looking for things it can eat such as food scraps and other garbage. They will then travel around your kitchen possibly walking on your counters, dishes, and silverware, depositing these germs like e coli and salmonella onto your clean dishes that you may eat off of.

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Control of cockroaches can be very difficult. There are methods you can try on your own to control them, but you still may want to work with a pest control operator to ensure that the infestation is managed adequately. You should start your control efforts with sticky traps to determine the species of cockroach as well as an approximate population size. After that you should make sure to eliminate their food source and their hiding places. Keep your home clean and free of clutter. Finally, you can use baits and dusts that you can get from the box stores or the hardware stores to kill the population. Be sure to always read and follow the label when using any kind of pesticide. The dusts can be beneficial to get into the cracks where the cockroaches are. The baits are effective and easier to apply but they make take longer to start working.

If you have any further questions please contact Nicole

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