

Fact Sheet #6 – American Cockroach



Nymph



Description

One of the largest pest cockroaches, it is red brown with a border around its head area. This cockroach flies, particularly in warm weather. An adult is typically 40mm long.

Habitat

Mostly found in dark, warm and moist locations such as unoccupied dwellings, rubbish dumps, sub floors and roof areas away from human activity. It has a preference for decaying organic waste, however it can survive for months without food.

Biology

Females may produce up to 50 cases, about 8mm by 5mm each containing 10-16 eggs. Nymphs mature in 6-12 months and then live for only 6-12 months. The egg cases are glued to items that are often transported, for example, cardboard boxes or wooden crates. After about 10 moults in a year, the cockroach reaches maturity and lives only a further year.

What you can do to limit infestation:

- Remove food residue in and around kitchen areas, especially near refrigerators.
- Store food in tightly sealed containers.
- Ensure work surfaces, cracks and crevices are free from food scraps.
- Empty rubbish bins regularly.
- Regularly remove accumulations of cardboard boxes.
- Steam clean soiled areas.
- Install screens to vents, especially over septic tanks, to increase air flow.
- Improve drainage in wet areas.
- Caulk or grout access cracks to roof and wall voids.
- Eliminate harbourages such as rolled carpet and stacks of paper.
- Fix leaks, especially from hot water systems.
- Regularly turn mulch piles.







If you get an infestation:

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