

COCKROACHES

German, Oriental and American cockroaches are the most commonly found species in the UK. Control is necessary where they infest a workplace or home as they can carry disease-causing organisms such as Salmonella and E. coli.

Cockroaches are adaptable insects that will eat almost any organic material, and have become one of the most well known domestic pests. The adults produce eggs contained in a robust egg case. Nymphs emerge from the egg case between 4-12 weeks later (dependent on conditions and species) and resemble miniature versions of the adult. The nymphs need to shed their hard outer skeleton several times in order to grow, and can only breed after the final moult to the adult stage.

How did the problem occur?

Cockroaches can be brought in amongst infested items, or spread from neighbouring properties. They search for warm humid areas, and for a source of food. Once they find a suitable place to live an aggregation hormone is released that attracts other cockroaches. The hormone can persist following treatment, making re-infestation a common problem – particularly where good housekeeping practices are not observed.

What does treatment involve?

1. Assessment of activity levels and inspection for sources of infestation to provide site-specific treatment.
2. Provision of house keeping and storage advice. Following this advice will help prevent future infestations.
3. Application of appropriate insecticide to remove the current infestation. During the treatment and for up to three hours following it, the premises must be vacated to allow the insecticide to dry.
4. Monitoring in and around the infested area to determine the extent and source of the infestation.
5. A second application of insecticide takes place a month later. This allows time for the next generation of cockroaches to emerge from the eggs that were laid before the treatment and for the recommended housekeeping and storage advice to be carried out. After the treatment surfaces should not be scrubbed to avoid washing away the insecticide.
6. A third and final visit will be carried out a month after the second visit to ensure the problem has been eradicated.
 - NOTE: Oriental cockroaches are harder to eradicate than other species as the egg cases can survive much longer; a fourth visit might be needed with this species

Residual Insecticides

Infested areas are sprayed with an insecticide solution that dries onto the surface. The insecticides we use are not hazardous to



German cockroach
(*Blattella germanica*)



Oriental cockroach
(*Blatta orientalis*)

During our visit:

Please arrange for yourself to go out for two to three hours after the treatment – you should not re-enter the property once the technician starts his work.

Monitors

These are sticky traps used to map the extent of an infestation and where the cockroaches are coming from. They are not used to directly control the cockroaches.

Throwing detectors away means we are less able to monitor the level of infestation in the future - they do not work if they are in the bin!

people or pets once they have dried. These insecticides remain active for two weeks following the spray. Please refrain from mopping or vacuuming treated surfaces during this time, as it will reduce the effectiveness of the cockroach treatment.

Insecticide dusts and gels

In some areas where the sprays are not appropriate, insecticide gels can be used. The gel baits are eaten by the cockroaches and poisons them. These are less effective than the residual spray because they cover a smaller area.

Housekeeping and storage

Cockroaches came into your premises for a reason; we can advise you on how to remove their source of food and places to hide. Good general advice is not to leave food debris (crumbs, scraps, etc.) and cooking grease on floors or other surfaces, and to make sure that food waste is stored in a bin with a sturdy lid.

**Find out about
cockroaches (and other
pest species) at Microbee:**

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