

# Cockroaches

## Information leaflet

---



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

April 2014

## **WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?**

The two main species of cockroach in Britain are the Oriental cockroach which is dark brown in colour and about 30mm long and the German cockroach which is light yellowish brown, and about 12mm long. Both species' bodies are divided into three sections and have large antennae protruding from the head.

## **WHERE DO THEY LIVE?**

Cockroaches are nocturnal and are not apparent during the day; they spend the day hiding in cracks and crevices around such areas as sinks, drains, the back of cookers, backs of cupboards and in refrigerator motor compartments. The Oriental cockroach can survive outdoors in Britain.

## **WHAT DO THEY EAT?**

Cockroaches will feed on a wide range of substances, particularly refuse and human food.

Cockroaches can survive for several months without food, but will not live for more than a few weeks without water.

## **DISEASE TRANSMISSION**

Cockroaches are not aggressive and spend most of their time looking for food, their general foraging allows them to transfer bacteria to places and transmit the following diseases to humans time and time again:

- Salmonella
- Cholera
- Typhoid
- Dysentery
- Hepatitis

## **CONTROL MEASURES**

Good hygiene management is essential. This will deny any sources of food, water or hiding places.

Assessment of the species type, and the location of infestation is vitally important. This process is best carried out at night, due to their nocturnal nature.

Insecticidal control is also required. However, the effectiveness of this depends on the suitability of the insecticide and the thorough application of the product.

Professional assistance is recommended for the treatment of cockroach infestations, involving the use of specialist baits and/or insecticidal sprays

Pest control companies who can treat for infestations can be found on the internet or in the yellow pages.

This Council does not provide a pest control treatment service at the present time, however should you require further advice please contact Environmental Services on 01353 665555

**WHEN USING INSECTICIDES ALWAYS FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE LABEL.**