

## Biology

Eggs are carried by the female in a capsule. Hatching nymphs grow through a series of 5-12 moults. The larger species become adults in 9-12 months. The German cockroach can mature in 2-3 months, and with up to 40 eggs in a capsule, the "family" could number 20,000 in a year.

Cockroaches avoid light, prefer warm, moist situations close to a food source. Their indiscriminate feeding in such areas as sewers, drains and garbage areas brings them in contact with disease organisms such as salmonella and other organisms associated with dysentery, typhoid, hepatitis and tuberculosis. Cockroaches are known also to produce allergic reactions in humans and, in some instances, severe asthma attacks.

## Management

Successful management begins with a thorough inspection to identify the species and to determine the extent and source of the infestation.

A programme is prepared combining the elimination of food sources, gaps and crevices where they live, use of trapping and selective use of compounds.

The compounds used for cockroach control are of low mammalian toxicity and do not persist in the environment. These include a group known as insect growth regulators which prevent the development to adulthood. Thus, no new eggs are laid. The various compounds used are usually so pest specific that they have little effect on non-target species.

THE AUSTRALIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PEST MANAGERS ASSOCIATION is an industry organisation with the goal of providing Australians with the best, safest and most cost effective pest management service.

Members are bound by a strict code of ethics which requires them, among other things, to ensure that all work is carried out in accordance with industry codes of practice and regulations. High priority is given to safety and care for the environment.



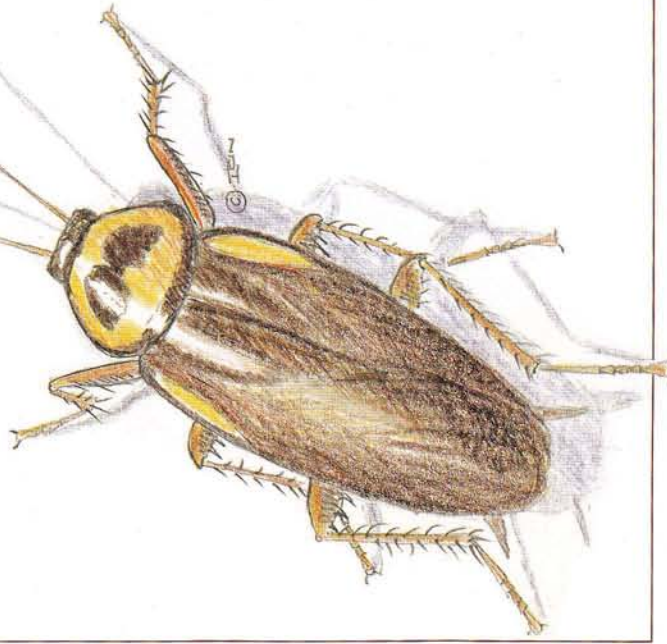
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# Cockroaches

Scavengers of the world, they eat almost anything, almost anywhere. They are survivors. Some of the 3,000 species are pests and are carriers of diseases affecting humans.



For prompt attention, contact your local Australian Environmental Pest Managers Association member.



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# The Pest Species

They all have flat bodies, enabling them to hide under bark, in crevices (or run under doors). Legs are almost even and the antennae are long. The noticeable difference between nymphs and adults, apart from size, is the lack of wings in the young. Even adults run rather than fly in most circumstances. At the end of each growth stage, the outer shell or cuticle splits and the almost white new stage emerges. It darkens in a couple of hours to again blend in with the others.

**GERMAN COCKROACH:** Adults 20-25mm and honey coloured. Prefers warm kitchens or storerooms inside buildings.

**BROWN-BANDED COCKROACH:** Adults are 20-25mm, honey and brown. Prefers to live in buildings but is less dependent on warmth.

**AMERICAN COCKROACH:** Adults to 55mm and deep red/brown. Prefers moist areas like drains, both inside and outside. Readily flies in warm climates.

**SMOKY BROWN COCKROACH:** Same size as the American but darker. Lives in tree hollows, under bark and enters buildings at night.

**AUSTRALIAN COCKROACH:** Adults also to 55mm, red/brown with pale edge to thorax and wings. Enters buildings at night from gardens/debris. May readily breed inside kitchen and laundry appliances.

**OTHER AUSTRALIAN NATIVES:** There are hundreds of species, mostly found in gardens, but these are not generally considered as pests.

# Cockroaches

**GERMAN COCKROACH**  
adult, nymph and egg capsule



**AMERICAN COCKROACH**  
adult, nymph and egg capsule



**GERMAN COCKROACHES**  
emerging from a dishwasher

