

## FAQ

➤ HOW LONG DOES THE TREATMENT AGAINST COCKROACHES TAKE?  
It depends of course on how severe the infestation is. Several treatments are usually required. Ask your pest controller. You can support his work by following his instructions. This will also reduce the number of treatments.

➤ ARE THE INSECTICIDES HARMFUL TO ME?

The pest controller only uses approved and tested insecticides. You do not have to leave your home when the treatment is being done.

➤ DO COCKROACHES TRANSMIT DISEASES?

Cockroaches spread bacteria, protozoa or mould and may transmit dangerous infectious diseases such as salmonella, hepatitis, typhus or tuberculosis. In addition, the droppings of these insects may also cause allergies in humans. If cockroaches get inside electrical devices such as computers, they can trigger short circuits.

Examples of infested areas:

Refrigerators, bug traps, door frames and cupboard doors



You suspect you have an infestation of cockroaches. Don't panic. Notify the manager of your accommodation or the caretaker. He will take appropriate action and explain to you what is being done and what you have to do. Normally, he will hire a pest controller. Discuss the measures you have to take with the management of the building, the caretaker and the pest controller. Follow the pest controller's safety instructions.

Try not to combat the cockroaches yourself by cleaning everything thoroughly with household cleaners or buying insecticides yourself.

The German cockroach (*Blattella germanica*) has a flat body, strong legs, long feelers and grows to a length of up to 1.5 cm. These creatures are often brought into homes unnoticed when you're on holiday. Sometimes, cockroaches even get into houses with used electrical appliances or food. In large residential blocks, they can easily spread from one apartment to the next. Only a jointly adopted approach will succeed in getting rid of these pests again. The infestation can only be eradicated if professional cockroach control is carried out throughout the building over a prolonged period of time.

The building managers will ensure professional control is in the hands of a certified pest controller. Do not try to conceal the infestation out of a sense of shame. A cockroach infestation is not an indication of poor hygiene. It can happen to anyone. You can support the work of the pest controllers by assisting them as follows.

ENGLISCH



# Advice COCKROACHES



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## A BRIEF INTRO TO COCKROACHES

The German or Oriental cockroach is usually found in German households. Despite their wings, they are unable to fly. They can only jump and use their wings to brake their fall. The large American cockroach can fly but rarely does so. By running, all species are able to move extremely quickly.

What cockroaches have in common is that they live in hiding, avoid light and therefore tend to be active in the dark. As cockroaches live in fairly large social groups, it is important to act quickly once they are found because an infestation is usually invasive – which means cockroaches spread out like an invasion at an incredible speed, even under adverse circumstances. Because cockroaches avoid the light and live in hiding, any infestation is usually more extensive than is initially recognisable. As a rule of thumb: If you see one cockroach in your kitchen, there are already 200 more of them in the house.

Cockroaches will eat anything and prefer soft, damp materials. They also consume rotting food as well as paper, leather and other textiles.

Cockroach faeces, saliva and moult residues may cause allergies, eczema and severe asthma. They may also transmit germs and parasites such as salmonella, abdominal flu, tuberculosis and cholera. However, with good hygienic conditions, this is unlikely in Central Europe, as the creatures only drag the pathogens away.

## WHERE DO COCKROACHES COME FROM?

Cockroaches do not infest living spaces due to a lack of hygiene or cleanliness. These pests are usually brought in via food packaging, used kitchen appliances or with holiday luggage. They can also enter houses or apartments from adjacent food processing plants or restaurants. Once they are inside, they usually multiply in their hiding places unnoticed for quite some time.

Dark corners and suitable places for cockroaches include:

- ☞ In or on waste water pipes, cable ducts, air conditioning systems or heating pipes
- ☞ Behind household appliances such as ovens or refrigerators
- ☞ Under floor coverings or skirting boards
- ☞ In wooden furniture or in drawers for clothing, paper and other items.

## HOW TO IDENTIFY COCKROACHES

- ☞ Seeing live cockroaches (especially at night) or dead ones
- ☞ Moult (translucent shells)
- ☞ Faeces (small, black and brown globules, similar to coffee powder) – on walls the spots of faeces usually run in a single track.
- ☞ Musty and sweet, unpleasant smell (in the case of bad infestation)
- ☞ Traces of chewing on food or textiles, holes in packaging



Cockroaches also leave behind traces of faeces that look like small brown crumbs (similar to coffee powder).

## COMBATTING AN INFESTATION

The most important thing about fighting cockroaches is to react quickly. You should react as soon as you discover **a single cockroach** and have maybe even killed it. Because in most cases there are more cockroaches hiding somewhere.

If you detect an infestation, it is better to rely on the professional help and advice of a pest controller straightaway. Professional exterminators normally employ gels that are used to attract the cockroaches. These consist of baits with poison.

Combatting cockroaches by yourself **is not recommended**. Home remedies or similar measures may only be effective against a small population, if at all. However, as cockroaches are always good at hiding, you can never be absolutely sure you will really catch all the pests. What to do if you find a cockroach?

### IMPORTANT

If you find that food, clothing or other textiles are infested with cockroaches, dispose of them. Cockroaches may transmit diseases and pathogens and even shed skin and faeces can also cause allergic reactions.

#### ☞ YOUR DUTIES IN COMBAT

In order for you to combat cockroaches effectively, the following steps are also important:

- ☞ Store food in containers you can seal tightly (jars with lid, plastic or metal boxes). Cartons or bags are not sufficient.
- ☞ Clean all surfaces, floors and cupboards (inside and out) thoroughly with an all-purpose cleaner.
- ☞ Wherever possible, close all crevices and cracks, open slots, gaps and ducts.

As a result, the cockroaches will no longer find food and be forced to resort to the bait laid out.