

Cockroaches

What do they eat?

- Cockroaches eat a variety of items, including but not limited to: spilled food, pet food, toothpaste cardboard and wallpaper glue.
- Cockroaches need food, water, and shelter to survive. Once they find these things, they leave “scent trails” to attract others.

Where do they hide?

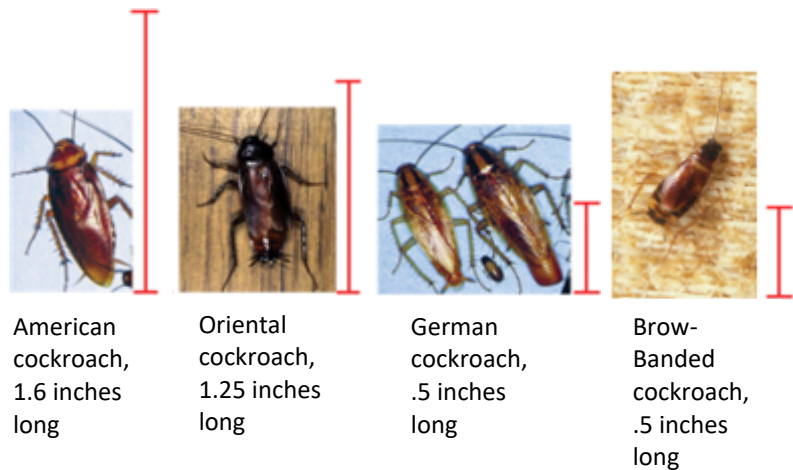
- Cockroaches hide during the day and become active at night.
- If cockroaches are seen during the daylight hours, it is a good indication of heavy infestation.
- Cockroaches prefer warm, humid areas and tight spaces (like cracks and crevices).
- Cockroaches are most commonly found in messy and untidy areas.

Photo credit: American, Oriental and German cockroaches: PA IPM Program, Penn State Extension
Brown-Banded cockroach: James L. Castner, University of Florida Featured Creatures.

Is your business at risk for cockroaches?

Cockroach Identification

Four kinds of cockroaches are common in Minnesota. The red line shows the average size of an adult cockroach. *



*Red line shows the average size of an adult cockroach.

If there is an infestation:

- Identifying the type of cockroach in your establishment is an important step, as each species requires a different method to eliminate it.
- Hire a pest control service to get rid of them.
- Work with your pest control operator on additional control measures.

Why are cockroaches a public health risk?

- Cockroaches carry diseases that can cause food poisoning, diarrhea, or other illnesses.
- Cockroaches can transfer germs from dirty areas to food, kitchen areas, and living spaces.
- Some children develop an allergic reaction, similar to asthma, when exposed to contaminated food, dust, or droppings.

Additional resources:

<https://extension.umn.edu/household-insects/cockroaches>

<https://extension.psu.edu/got-cockroaches>

<https://lancaster.unl.edu/pest/roachmanual.shtml>



American cockroach.

Photo credit: [MSU Diagnostic Services](#)

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact 311 (outside Minneapolis call 612-673-3000) or email Minneapolis311@minneapolismn.gov. Ask to speak with a health inspector.

People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users can call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626.

Para asistencia 612-673-2700.

Yog xav tau kev pab, hu
612-673-2800.

Hadii aad Caawimaad u
baahantahay 612-673-3500.

Prevention

Food

- Eliminate sources of food by cleaning spills and food debris immediately, washing dishes promptly, and storing food in pest-safe containers.
- Store all items at least 6-inches off the floor.
- Use a trash can with a lid. Empty and clean the trash can regularly.
- Maintain a clean facility. Eliminate food sources by cleaning and sanitizing all surfaces regularly.
- Clean inside, under, and around all kitchen equipment.

Water

- Eliminate moisture and repair water leaks.
- Clean drains, using an enzyme cleaner and/or stiff wire brush.
- Hang all damp mops to dry.

Shelter

- Clean or remove potential hiding spaces such as stacks of old newspapers, magazines, bags, cardboard boxes, and piles of clothing.
- Seal all cracks and crevices around windows, doors, crawl spaces, pipes, wires, and cables with silicone caulking, screening, and/or copper mesh.
- Install door sweeps as needed.
- Avoid propping doors open.
- Put screens in windows and over drains.
- Remove unnecessary equipment from the establishment. Unused or infrequently used equipment provides places for cockroaches to hide, live, and breed.
- Check all incoming supplies, including paper goods.