

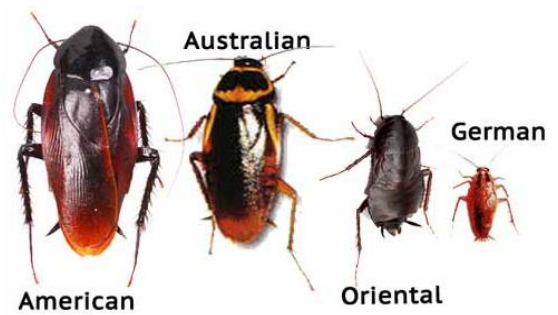
COCKROACH IDENTIFICATION, PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Cockroaches are highly resilient insects that can rapidly reproduce - therefore infestations must be controlled quickly and effectively. Cockroaches have the potential to pose a risk to human health as they can carry and spread diseases. The presence of cockroaches at various stages of their lifecycle indicates an established cockroach infestation.

Cockroach characteristics

The most common cockroach varieties found in South Australia include the German, American and Oriental cockroaches. General characteristics of a cockroach include:

- Oval-shaped body
- Six legs
- Long antennae
- Flat and low-lying body
- Fast-moving
- Winged



Spreading disease

Cockroaches will eat virtually anything, from food to faecal matter. Bacteria can survive in the digestive system of cockroaches, which can then be spread to humans when cockroaches purge or defecate onto food and other surfaces. Cockroaches can carry disease-causing bacteria, such as *salmonella*, *staphylococcus* and *streptococcus*.

Common hiding spots

Cockroaches generally prefer to live in or near kitchens, so they can feed off food spills and have access to water, however they can live and breed anywhere. Some common cockroach hiding spots include:

- Cracks in walls
- Pantry or kitchen cupboards
- Drains and grease traps
- Underneath sinks
- Behind or underneath furniture or appliances that are generally left undisturbed, i.e. water heaters, microwaves, dishwashers and refrigerators
- Throughout gardens



Cockroach infestation behind a hot water service

Preventing cockroach activity

To minimise and prevent cockroach living and breeding on your property, there are a few easy things you can do:

- Keep the house, especially the kitchen, clean and tidy
- Empty the kitchen rubbish bin regularly
- Clean up food spills immediately
- Store food in sealed containers
- Don't leave lots of pet food or food scraps in pet bowls, only leave enough for pets to consume immediately
- Eliminate excess water sources such as a dripping taps
- Repair holes, cracks or gaps in the walls, skirting boards and inside cupboards
- Discard unwanted furniture or materials
- Use appropriate insecticides by following the manufacturer's instructions

Eliminating cockroach infestations

Chemical controls such as bait stations, gels, sprays, bombs and dusting (outside) can be used to treat and eliminate cockroaches. These products can be purchased from most supermarkets and hardware stores. If you find that the above control measures are not effective, you should call a professional pest control company. Professional pest control companies should successfully eradicate cockroach infestations within a few treatments, however if conditions are favourable, i.e., there is an easily accessible source of food or water, cockroaches may return.

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