

# German Cockroach Factsheet

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

**German cockroaches** are one of the most common pest insects in the United States and are found anywhere people live. They are most active at night and prefer to stay in dark, tight spaces, making them difficult to find and control. These insects are scavengers and eat anything they can find. German cockroach waste can contain allergens, contaminate food, and trigger asthmatic reactions, posing a public health threat. Keeping spaces clean and avoiding clutter are two great ways to prevent German cockroaches. Contact a professional if you are experiencing a German cockroach infestation in your home.

## DESCRIPTION AND HABITS

- German cockroaches are about 1/2-inch in size and a light brown color all over. Immature cockroaches are smaller and dark brown. Adult cockroaches have wings, but they can't fly.
- They have two dark lines on their pronotum (shield-like body part that partially covers their head).
- They get in homes through hitching a ride on bags, boxes, or suitcases. They can also travel between apartment units.
- They will scavenge and eat anything (some examples include crumbs/food scraps, grease/oil, pet food, and even glue).
- They tend to hide and stay in dark, humid, and tight places in a home, and are found in groups of immatures and adults.
- German cockroaches are most commonly found in kitchens and bathrooms because there are many places to hide and they are close to food and water sources.
- One German cockroach will live for about 100 days.

## SIGNS OF GERMAN COCKROACHES

### Some common signs of German cockroaches include:

- Cockroach droppings (small and look like pepper flakes)
- Unpleasant odor
- Shed insect skin and egg cases
- Seeing cockroaches themselves

### What you can do to prevent cockroaches in your home:

- Reduce clutter to minimize cockroach hiding places
- Keep your home clean and properly seal food
- Vacuum any loose crumbs or debris
- Remove water sources in your home



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