

PUBLIC PROTECTION – ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

Pest advice - Cockroaches

What do they look like?

The two main species of cockroach in Britain are the oriental cockroach which is dark brown in colour and about 30mm long, and the German cockroach which is light yellowish brown and about 12mm long. Both species bodies are divided into three sections and have large antennae protruding from the head.



Where do they live?

Generally found indoors such as cellars, kitchens, bakeries, heating ducts etc. The oriental cockroach can survive outdoors in Britain.

What do they eat?

All cockroaches will feed on a wide range of substances, particularly rubbish and human food. Cockroaches can survive for several months without food, but will not live for more than a few weeks without water.

Pest status

Cockroaches will often remain hidden during the day using cracks and crevices as harbourage. This means that in most cases they will not be apparent during the day. Most species can climb with ease, especially the German cockroach which can climb smooth vertical surfaces.

Control measures: Hygiene

Before carrying out a treatment against cockroaches a thorough cleansing of the area to be treated should take place, paying particular attention to removing food sources and hiding places.

Sticky traps

The use of sticky traps is not recommended for controlling cockroaches, and should only be used for monitoring the extent of infestation.

Insecticide control

Carrying out a successful treatment against cockroaches will depend on what insecticides are chosen, and how thorough the application is. Many of the insects and their egg cases are hidden in cracks and crevices, so particular attention should be paid to these areas when applying insecticides. To control and infestation, the insecticide used should persist until the egg cases have hatched and this may mean further applications could be necessary. Baits can give continuous control of cockroaches over an extended period. The cockroaches will feed on these baits picking up enough insecticide to kill them.

Professional treatment

Powys County Council does not undertake treatment for cockroaches. Commercial pest control companies are listed on the internet, in the Yellow Pages and Thompson's Local Directory.