



COCKROACHES

PREVENTION & TREATMENT



Facts:

- Cockroaches have become well adapted to living with and near humans, and cockroach control may become a homeowner's most difficult task because of the time and special knowledge it often involves.
- Little evidence exists linking the cockroach to specific disease outbreaks, however, the cockroach is considered an allergen source and an asthma trigger for some individuals.
- Cockroaches are primarily nocturnal. Daytime sightings may indicate potentially heavy infestations.
- They tend to hide in cracks and crevices and can move freely from room to room or adjoining housing units via wall spaces, plumbing, and other utility installations. Entry into homes is often accomplished through food and beverage boxes, grocery sacks, animal food, and household goods carried into the home.

Management Strategies:

1) Prevention:

Prevention includes inspecting items being carried into the home and washing and drying bags, purses, and other items using high heat. Sealing cracks and crevices in kitchens, bathrooms, exterior doors, and windows can also prevent cockroaches from entering your home. Structural modifications would include weather stripping and pipe collars.

3) Trapping:

Commercially available cockroach traps can be used to capture roaches and serve as a monitoring device. The most effective trap placement is against vertical surfaces, primarily corners, and under sinks, in cabinets, basements, and floor drains.



2) Sanitation:

Sanitation denies cockroaches food, water, and shelter. These efforts include quickly cleaning food particles from shelving and floors; timely washing of dinnerware; and routine cleaning under refrigerators, stoves, furniture, and similar areas. If pets are fed indoors, pet food should be stored in tight containers and not left in bowls overnight. Litter boxes should be cleaned routinely. Access should be denied to water sources by fixing leaking plumbing, drains, sink traps, and aquaria. Elimination of shelter can be partially accomplished by purging clutter, such as papers and soiled clothing and rags.

4) Chemical Control:

The use of chemicals typically indicates that the other three strategies have been applied incorrectly. Numerous insecticides are available and appropriate information is obtainable from EPA.