

Control Measures

The success of any control measure is related to the practice of good sanitation and hygiene.

Waste material must be disposed of in bins and the garbage removed from the premises at appropriate intervals.

Harbourage points must be treated and, if feasible, destroyed.

Only insecticide active ingredients approved by the Food Storage and Prevention of Infestation Division may be used in food and food-related areas to control cockroaches. In addition, only the approved control practices should be employed.



Ministry of Industry, Investment & Commerce

**FOOD STORAGE & PREVENTION
OF INFESTATION DIVISION**

"Ensuring Safety & Wholesomeness"

FACTS ABOUT COCKROACHES

For further information please contact:

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Overview

Cockroaches, especially German cockroaches, are the most common and important household insect pests. Cockroaches are most active at nights and can be found where food is handled, stored or produced. During the days they hide in cracks and crevices, spaces in walls, cool areas in the home e.g., closets, sinks, drains, man-holes, stoves, the back of cupboards and in refrigerated units.

Adult cockroaches often enter homes and food establishments and deposit egg cases. German cockroaches will lodge between laundry, raw materials on crates or packaging materials. Breeding sites are often established quickly. *Common pest cockroach species are:*

- The American cockroach,
Periplaneta americana;
- The German cockroach,
Blattella germanica;
- The Australian cockroach,

- The drummer cockroach,
Blaberus giganteus.

The American cockroach has an affinity for the sewer system while the German cockroach prefers kitchen and bathroom areas. The Australian cockroach looks similar to the American but is smaller. The drummer cockroach occupies harbourages in gardens especially dead or decaying plants, rubbish or logs.

Public Health Significance

Cockroaches are vectors of disease-causing organisms. They will crawl over faeces and unsanitary areas and then contaminate food and utensils with these organisms. Worm eggs are also often transmitted in this manner. Cockroaches are vectors of illnesses such as dysentery, food poisoning, diarrhoea, gastro-enteritis, typhoid and poliomyelitis.

Cockroaches also carry a wide variety of microorganisms inside their bodies, some of which may be involved in the spread of dis-

ease.

The excrement and cast skins of the cockroach contain a number of allergens to which many people exhibit allergic responses.

Cockroaches infest, taint and reduce the aesthetic value of man's goods. They are offensive and will reduce clientele if visible in food establishments.