

GERMAN COCKROACH: PREVENTION TIPS

German cockroaches are one of the most prevalent species of cockroach in the United States. Known for dwelling in unsanitary conditions, they can potentially carry and spread pathogens, such as *E. coli* and *Salmonella*. Learn how you can help prevent German cockroach infestations at your business with these expert tips.



ID and biology

- Adults are ½- to ⅝-inch long; tan or light brown with two- dark stripes on the area directly behind the head. Females are darker in color than males.
- They have wings, but do not fly.
- Nymphs look similar to adults, but not exactly the same. After each molt, they look more adult-like.
- Females produce 4-8 egg capsules over their lifetime. Each one contains 30-50 eggs that hatch within a month.
- Cockroaches forage for food and water at night.
- Cockroach activity seen in the daylight may indicate you have an infestation.



🔍 Where you might see them

- German cockroaches prefer dark, warm, humid environments with easy access to food and water, such as kitchens.
- They can eat non-food items such as wallpaper paste, cardboard, newspaper, and bookbinding glue.

📋 What you can do to help

Make note of any signs, such as egg capsules, droppings, fecal stains, or a musty smell. This will help your pest professional identify potential hotspots.

💡 Tips for prevention

- Sanitation and maintenance are key! Eliminate any food debris or standing water; and seal cracks and gaps to reduce harborage areas.
- Keep storage areas dry and free of clutter, allowing space between items.
- Ensure that floor drains and garbage disposals are free of food waste.
- German cockroaches can be introduced to facilities via deliveries. Develop a process for inspecting incoming dry goods and foods.
- Because German cockroaches may hitchhike into a facility on personal items, regularly inspect and clean break areas and locker rooms.
- German cockroaches like to live in environments with wood and paper. Remove any excess storage of these items, especially cardboard.
- Avoid using over-the-counter sprays. It can potentially make the problem worse, resulting in cockroaches spreading to other areas.
- Maintain the integrity of wall coverings to reduce harborage areas.
- Reduce moisture and humidity in areas by installing dehumidifiers.
- Keep dumpsters and exterior garbage bins tightly covered and away from the building.

Schedule a free consultation today.
Call 864.695.1448 or contact us online
at [smarterpestcontrol.com](https://www.smarterpestcontrol.com).

