

Cockroaches

Knowsley Council Pest Control Service

Cockroaches

Cockroaches are found predominantly in and around drains and waste storage areas. They are a health hazard as they carry bacteria which can cause gastroenteritis, dysentery and typhoid and can transfer this bacteria onto food products and surfaces. In extreme cases contact with cockroaches can cause allergic reactions.

Infestations are often the result of broken drains or building defects. Cockroaches can even be transferred between locations, e.g. in products from infested sites.

There are two commonly found species, the German cockroach and the Oriental cockroach.

Signs to look for around your home

German cockroaches are dark brown to black, approximately 17mm long with a tapering body. Infestations are found in areas of high humidity, such as behind fridges, around cookers and in cupboards. Unhygienic living conditions will attract cockroaches and in larger infestations there can be a sweet smell.

Oriental cockroaches are very dark brown or black and approximately 25mm long. Oriental cockroaches prefer spaces like basements, cellars, drains and other moist areas.

Although cockroaches are nocturnal, if the infestation is large enough, they may appear during the day.

How to prevent cockroaches

Good housekeeping and hygiene will help prevent or control a cockroach infestation. Keep surfaces, food preparation areas and floors clean and keep food stuffs in sealed containers and don't leave food lying around. Ensure that all indoor bins are emptied regularly and that indoor drain access is tightly sealed.



Treating and controlling cockroaches

Treating cockroaches is challenging, so we recommend that infestations are treated professionally and quickly by qualified technicians. A thorough cleansing of the area must be carried out before treatment.

Cockroaches can spread quickly where there is a large infestation, so the problem can also affect neighbouring properties.

Bait products - pastes, gels, granules, or dusts - are the primary pesticides used to treat infestations. Most insecticides used in baits are slow acting and may take up to seven days or even longer to take effect. Sticky traps should only be used for monitoring the extent of the infestation.

Further help and guidance

Knowsley Council Pest Control Service offers competitive rates for the treatment of cockroaches in domestic and commercial properties.

For further information ring **0151 443 2400** or visit **www.knowsley.gov.uk/residents/bins-waste-and-environment/book-pest-control-appointment**

