

Oriental Cockroach

Scientific Name: *Blatta orientalis*



Identification tips:

Color	Very dark brown, almost black
Legs	6
Size	Adult males measure 1" while females reach 1 ¼" long
Identifying Characteristics	Greasy sheen to their bodies; males have wings covering ¾ of body while females have non-functional wings with broader bodies

Characteristics of this insect:

- Called the "water bug" as they prefer damp, dark, and cool areas. When inside structure, usually forage on first floor
- Females carry egg capsule (ootheca) for little less than 24 hours before depositing in secluded spot. Female can produce 8 egg capsules containing about 16 eggs per capsule from spring to midsummer. Nymphs are active from about March through most of summer
- Early spring, you will find only adults. As nymphs increase throughout summer, adults die off. By fall, majority of population is adults.
- Feed on all kinds of filth, rubbish, and other decaying organic matter
- Favor crawl spaces, building foundations, sewer drains, and outside under debris, stones, underneath sidewalks, and mulches. They can survive outside for extended periods of time despite freezing weather

Why are they in my structure?

They can enter the structure via cracks in foundations, unsealed gaps around windows/door/utility lines, as well as from the floor drains via the sewer system. These insects are usually found on the first floor and are very susceptible to lack of water.



Is this insect harmful to me?

Potentially, Yes. They have been known to harbor and spread disease-producing organisms like bacteria, protozoans, and viruses on their bodies. They have also been known to cause food poisoning, dysentery, diarrhea, and other illnesses. Cockroach excrement and molted skins also contain numerous allergens that can possibly produce allergic responses such as rashes, watery eyes, sneezing, nasal congestion, and asthma attacks.

Can I treat the problem myself?

Due to the complexity of this insect and the arsenal of products that must be incorporated into the treatment, it has been our experience that most homeowners and/or businesses are unsuccessful at eliminating this problem. Also, homeowners often utilize products that are ineffective or apply them not in accordance with labeling and state laws. Please remember that products may be harmful to you and your family if they are misused or misapplied.

What can Apex do for me?

An Apex representative will spend time interviewing the customer as to where the roaches have been seen, how many, presence of egg capsules, conditions within the structure that may be causing the problems, presence of nymphs, and habitat modifications that are required to suppress this insect to name a few. That being said, Apex can provide you with a one-time application or a preventative maintenance plan.

One-Time Treatment: An interview is conducted along with a detailed inspection of the interior of the structure. Time is spent identifying harborage areas and sources for continued infestation. An Apex service representative will apply the appropriate products to include an insect growth regulator (birth control for the cockroach) with the safety of your people, pets, places, and the environment in mind. A 90-day guarantee is provided with free service calls if needed.

Pest Prevention Plan: Quarterly inspections and treatments are performed to keep areas pest free year around. Free service calls are provided whenever a pest outbreak occurs. Being that a variety of general insect problems are covered, this is a cost effective way to maintain the integrity of your home and is the **recommended treatment of Apex.**

Is the treatment safe for my children and pets?



Since 1969, Apex has always operated with one goal in mind: *“The safety of people, pets, places, and the environment is our first concern.”* Therefore, we will utilize crack and crevice and spot applications, baits, monitors, habitat modification recommendations, and natural products as a method of treatment when possible. When conventional treatments are required, our licensed technicians are trained to apply the products so as to not pose a problem to people or their pets. All conventional products are EPA registered and our technician will advise you of any necessary precautions.

What should I do now?

Call our office at 1-800-MUG-A-BUG (1-800-684-2284) to discuss your problem with a knowledgeable customer service representative. Otherwise, sign up for a free online quote today!

Oriental cockroach image courtesy of the University of Florida (<http://www.entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures>)

<http://www.apexpestcontrol.net/> 1-800-MUG-A-BUG

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