

# Rentokil

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## Tips for the prevention of German cockroaches

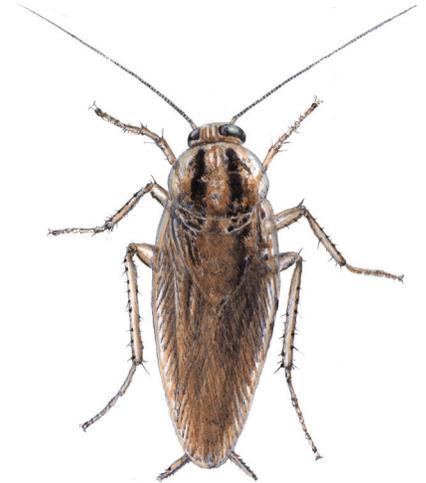
More than any other pest, cockroaches are associated with dirty and unsanitary conditions. The sight of just one could send a customer running in the other direction – and telling everyone they know. Both living and dead German cockroaches can carry bacteria, such as *E. coli* and *Salmonella*, and exacerbate allergies and asthma, especially in children, making their presence a serious liability.

### Where you might see them

- German cockroaches prefer mild to warm, humid environments that offer access to food and water.
- These pests hide in dark areas and often shy away from light.
- Most commonly found in kitchens, but can be seen in any area of a structure that offers the above conditions.

### Tips for prevention

- German cockroaches are most effectively controlled through proper sanitation and maintenance. Eliminate food debris and standing water that can serve as food sources. Seal cracks, crevices, and gaps that may serve as harborage areas.
- Keep storage areas dry and well-organized, allowing space between items. Eliminate clutter.
- Ensure that floor drains and garbage disposals are free of food waste. A regular cleaning schedule should be developed for these areas.
- German cockroaches are often introduced to facilities via deliveries. Develop a process for checking incoming dry goods and foods for pest infestation.
- Because German cockroaches may hitchhike into a facility via employees' personal items, discourage employees from bringing unnecessary belongings to work. Ensure that employees have a place to store personal items away from food areas and perform regular inspections and cleaning of this area.
- German cockroaches like to live in environments with wood and paper. Remove any excess storage of these items, especially cardboard, which is a favorite of German cockroaches.
- Do not attempt to spray over-the-counter pesticides to eliminate German cockroaches. By disturbing the cockroaches with these pesticides, a localized problem can actually spread to other areas of a facility.
- Maintain the integrity of wall coverings such as stainless steel or fiberglass reinforced plastic (FRP) to reduce harborage opportunities.



### Identification and biology

- Adult German cockroaches are approximately 5/8-inch long, medium brown in color, with two dark stripes on the pronotum (the hard shell covering just behind the head).
- This cockroach has wings but does not fly.
- Immature or “baby” German cockroaches look similar to adults, but not exactly the same. Each time they molt, they become more adult-like.

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