

AMERICAN COCKROACH INFO SHEET

FAST FACTS

- Cockroaches have been around for over 200 million years, since the time of dinosaurs!
- A cockroach can live almost a month without food.
- A cockroach can live about two weeks without water.
- A cockroach can live for up to one week without its head!
- Cockroaches can hold their breath for up to 40 minutes!
- Cockroaches can run up to 3 miles an hour.
- Some female cockroaches only mate once and stay pregnant for life!

General Information

The American cockroach is the largest cockroach found in houses. Females can hatch up to 150 offspring per year. Cockroaches don't get their wings until they become adults.

American cockroaches are also known as "waterbugs" because they are so commonly found near rich water resources, like puddles and water pipes. American cockroaches are nocturnal. They rest by day and **forage** for food at night.

Size	2"	Common Name	American Cockroach
Shape	Oval	Kingdom	Animalia
Color	Reddish brown, with a yellowish figure eight pattern on the back of their head	Phylum	Arthropoda
Legs	6	Class	Insecta
Wings	Yes	Order	Dictyoptera
Antenna	Yes	Family	Blattidae
		Genus Species	Periplaneta americana

Diet

American cockroaches will eat just about anything, including plants and other insects.

Habitat

American cockroaches live in warm, dark, wet places, because they need to be near water. They are often found in sewers and basements, around pipes and drains.

Impact

Cockroaches crawl through dirty areas and then walk around our homes tracking in lots of bacteria and germs. They can **contaminate** food by shedding their skins. Their cast off skin and waste byproducts can also trigger **allergic reactions, asthma** and other illnesses, especially in children.

Prevention

* Keep cooking, eating and food storage areas clean and dry.

* If you see cockroaches, it is best to call a pest management professional due to the illnesses they can spread.

To learn more about this and other cockroaches, visit <http://www.pestworldforkids.org/cockroaches.html>