

# Cockroaches



*What You Need to Know*



### ***What are cockroaches?***

Cockroaches are brown insects with antenna and are about one and a half inches (four centimeters) long when fully grown. Cockroaches feed on garbage, fruit, crumbs and a variety of other items.

Cockroaches may carry hazardous bacteria and viruses that cause human illnesses. However cockroaches do not directly transmit these diseases to humans.

Cockroaches may trigger asthma attacks in response to irritants from body parts and droppings.

### ***What is the life cycle of cockroaches?***

Cockroaches live for only one year. In that year, however, a single cockroach can lay nearly 150 eggs. Cockroaches can live up to one month without food. It is important to constantly keep food sources away from them.





### ***What do cockroaches feed on?***

Cockroaches will eat just about anything, including:

- wood
- leather
- glue
- cigarette butts
- toothpaste
- soap
- human food

### ***How do I know I have cockroaches?***

The presence of cockroaches is the main indicator of cockroach problems. But they also leave discarded shells. When immature cockroaches outgrow their shells, they grow new ones and discard the old ones four times throughout their lives. Shedding their shells allows cockroaches to grow to their maximum size.

### ***Where do cockroaches live?***

Cockroaches live in warm, humid areas, usually:

- basements
- kitchens
- bathrooms
- near sewer pipes
- gardens and greenhouses
- pavement and walkways

Cockroaches will come out of these areas to search for food. They easily adapt to new surroundings and will survive on almost any source of moisture and food.



# How can cockroaches be prevented?

The first step is to clean your home regularly. Clean up spills, wash dishes and vacuum regularly – these are just a few things you can do to prevent pest infestation. Remember what we see as small crumbs are like huge meals to insects.

Cockroaches will enter homes through cracked plumbing fixtures and flood drains. They can also come in on used furniture, appliances and clothes. If you have these conditions, phone Manitoba Housing Authority's Housing Communication Centre.



## **How does the Manitoba Housing Authority help get rid of pests in my home?**

If you think you have pests in your home, phone the Manitoba Housing Authority (MHA) immediately. The MHA does not recommend that you treat pest problems on your own, as doing so may cause further infestations.

**Call the Manitoba Housing Authority's Housing Communication Centre at 945-8765 in Winnipeg; or toll free at 1-800-661-4663.**

**Treatment** > A professional exterminator will be hired to treat your unit for pests. Your belongings will be respected and taken care of while your home is treated.

With your co-operation, any pest concerns can be treated without complications.

**After treatment** > The spray residue from the extermination will work for three weeks after treatment. Do **not** wash the area around baseboards.

Keep clothing and bedding clean and laundered. Keep clothes in a sealed bag until pests have been completely exterminated.