

Penn State Pointers ► German Cockroaches: Health Hazard and Nuisance

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The cockroach is the most common household insect pest in most of the United States.

The most common cockroach in Pennsylvania is the German cockroach.

They are flightless and best identified by their small size and the two dark parallel lines running from the back of the head to the base of the wings.

Adult German cockroaches average between one-half to five-eighths of an inch long.

(approx. actual size)



Sanitation is the key to controlling household cockroach populations...

- Use sticky traps in suspected areas to check for infestations.
- Clean up all spilled foods—including crumbs on floors and counters.
- Don't leave out dirty dishes.
- Store all dry perishable foods in sealed, airtight containers.
- Caulk all openings in kitchens and bathrooms.
- Empty garbage every day.
- Use insecticidal baits and traps created specifically for cockroaches.

Remember, cockroach residues can lead to health problems and allergic reactions in humans.

Additional graphics and information available on the Internet at aginfo.psu.edu/psp

For Year-Round Time Frame