

American Cockroach *Periplaneta americana* (L.)



Size: American Cockroach adults are about (34-53mm) long.

Characteristics: The largest cockroach, oval in outline, with body flattened, antennae long and threadlike, head mostly hidden, chewing mouthparts, front wings leathery with veins. American cockroach: both sexes fully winged; wings of male (but not female) extend beyond tip of abdomen; poor to moderate flier.

Color: Reddish brown

Habitat: Warm, humid places like manholes, food storage and food preparation areas, basements, and steam tunnels of large commercial buildings, such as restaurants, markets, hospitals, food processing plants.

Diet: All food materials, especially fermenting food.

Biology: The female lays her egg capsule or glue it to the surface of a crevice that is near a source of food for 9-10 times during her life. Each egg capsule contains about 14-16 eggs. Development from egg to adult at room temperature takes about 20 months, and 10-13 molts. Adult females live about 15 months in ideal conditions.

Damage: Nuisance and health hazard as carrier of disease.

Invasion: American cockroaches may enter buildings in packaging, or come up through sewer drains, or in a mass, from other structures or dumps, during warm weather.

Detection & Management:

Inspect areas with flashlight to determine exact location of breeding.

Sanitation and preventive measures to prevent breeding.

Gel bait treatment at dry areas and spraying pesticides in wet areas.