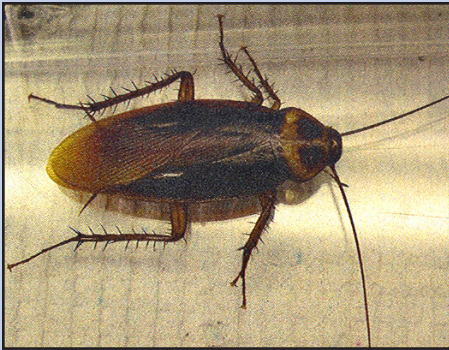




earth-wise guide to

Indoor Pests

Cockroaches



American Cockroach

Wizzie Brown

description

Oval-shaped insect with leathery wings and long antennae; can be tan to reddish brown to dark brown

infestation

When indoors, cockroaches can carry disease-causing organisms from bathrooms, garbage cans and sewers to kitchen counters and human food.

habits

Generally hidden during the day in cracks and crevices; active at night; generally stay near outer perimeter of room. When cockroaches are visible during the day, the infestation is usually very large.

Least Toxic Solutions

Prevention

- Keep your home clean
 - Clean up spilled food and drinks immediately
 - Do not leave dirty dishes, food, or pet food out overnight
 - Sweep and vacuum often
 - Put garbage in plastic bags and take outside several times a week
 - Rinse recyclable items and recycling bins often
 - Empty refrigerator drip pans regularly
- Store food and pet food in containers with tight-fitting lids
- Repair plumbing leaks
- Prevent pests from entering the home by placing diatomaceous earth (DE) in openings around pipes, windows and doors and then seal cracks with caulk or expanding foam
- Trim trees that overhang or touch the roof
- Clean gutters regularly

Solutions

- Identify hiding places by placing non-toxic sticky traps along walls near food and water sources
- Use only products labeled for the location and pest to be treated
- Try roach baits in child-proof, plastic stations first – they are safe, easy to use and effective
- Use baits with fipronil, boric acid or hydramethylnon
- Insecticidal gel baits in applicator tubes are also easy to use and very effective
- Be patient – baits may take several days to get results
- If you must use dusts or sprays, do not apply near baits – it might contaminate the bait
- Apply dusts or sprays to baseboards, cracks & crevices, openings around water pipes, and in wall voids
- If roaches remain a problem, hire a professional pest control service

References:

Texas IPM, Texas Cooperative Extension,
http://agrilifebookstore.org/publications_details.cfm?whichpublication=54

Keeping Cockroaches Out of Your House, Our Water Our World,
www.ourwaterourworld.org



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