

Oriental Cockroach: Prevention Tips



Oriental cockroaches can cause serious issues for businesses, contaminating anything they touch. Their large size makes them extremely visible and can cause significant disruption. Keep these invasive pests out of your business with Rentokil's expert tips.

Where you might see them

- They can be a problem in northern climates that are cool, but remain above freezing.
- Underground areas: basements, crawl spaces, and under concrete slabs.
- Drains and sewers may provide access into buildings.
- Cool, humid, cluttered areas offer ideal harborage.
- In the fall and winter, they seek protection under mulch beds.

What you can do to help

- Make note of any signs, such as egg capsules, droppings, fecal stains, or a musty smell. This will help your pest professional identify potential hotspots.

Tips for prevention

- Seal any cracks or crevices with a silicone sealant.
- Remove potential food and water sources: clean up spills and food crumbs immediately, repair leaks, remove cobwebs that may contain dead insects.
- Reduce clutter to eliminate harborage areas.
- Keep animal feed and grain in sealed containers.
- Keep drain traps filled with enough water to seal.
- Replace s-traps with p-traps (especially in old buildings).
- Reduce humidity by installing a dehumidifier.



ID and biology

- Adults are 1-1 ¼-inch long and range in color from shiny black to reddish-brown.
- Nymphs (babies) molt 7-10 times and get larger after each molt.
- Only males have small, nonfunctional wings.
- They are omnivores, but prefer animal feed and grains.
- Proper identification is critical: Turkestan cockroaches look similar, but reproduce more rapidly.

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