

## 61. How To Get Rid Of Cockroaches

Cockroaches are among the most common insects. Based on fossil evidence, cockroaches are known to have been present on Earth for over 300 million years.

Once you've seen cockroaches in your home or apartment, odds are there are many more out of view. When embarking on your journey to eradicate cockroaches, try the following strategies:

- You can make your own insecticide by mixing equal parts of baking soda and powdered sugar and setting up a mock bait plate for the cockroaches. After mixing your sugar and soda, leave the mixture in a shallow dish where cockroaches have been seen or are known to travel. The combination of sugar and soda is lethal to the cockroach.
- Cockroaches hate the taste of bay leaves. You can naturally and safely keep most cockroaches at bay by placing the leaves anywhere you've seen cockroaches moving. Using bay leaves is a great way to keep cockroaches out of the rooms and play areas of children.
- Don't water the cockroaches! Cockroaches can survive months without eating, but they need a daily source of water to thrive. Never leave water in the sink, in dirty dishes, or other areas of the house. Check other sources of water as well, such as leaky plumbing, under-refrigerator dampness, and concrete sweating. Wipe all traces of water from the sink after you've done the dishes and wipe down the bath area after use.

- Clean, clean, clean! Cockroaches naturally gravitate toward areas which are littered with cockroach droppings
- Use a detergent or disinfectant to thoroughly clean the area and deter a re-infestation. On concrete floors and walls, you can use a mixture of bleach and water to disinfect the area. Other services can be cleaned with everyday cleansers or antibacterial soaps and scrubs.

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### **Fascinating Facts about cockroaches**

- Cockroaches even live in the walls of clean homes; they just have larger colonies in less clean homes due to a bigger food supply available.
- Cockroaches can live a month without food, but only a week without water.
- A cockroach can live a week without a head. It dies after a week due to lack of water.
- Cockroaches love onions.
- Laboratory female cockroaches are able to reproduce without aid of a male. They produce all female offspring.
- Cockroaches thrive in all conditions and live in the desert as well as the arctic.
- Cockroaches do not have eyes in the back of their head. They do however have tiny little hairs that gauge the air movement around them, and so they can feel your presence from behind.
- Cockroaches eat meat; they are omnivores, so they will eat just about anything including dead animals.
- A cockroach can hold it's breath for up to 40 minutes.
- There are approximately 3500 different species of cockroach worldwide.

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### **Preventing cockroaches in your home**

- Avoid dampness within the house, especially in the kitchen and near water pipes and sinks. Repair leaking faucets, make sure the drainage is working and avoid spilling water.
- Keep the house clean and tidy. Clothes and other household articles should not be kept on the floor.
- Store food in closed containers or keep it inside closed cupboards. Household refuse should be placed in closed containers and disposed of properly.
- Improvements inside the house can eliminate the hiding places of cockroaches. Plug cracks and crevices in walls and floors.
- Keep your yard clean and rubbish free and make adequate arrangements for both liquid and solid waste disposal.
- Aside from this, the following measures are recommended by 'Consumer Reports':
- Remove clutter – newspapers, piles of boxes, and so on from areas where you've seen cockroaches.
- Outside, trim bushes near air vents to keep cockroaches from getting into the house.

This information was sourced from <http://www.howtokillroaches.org/category/get-rid-of-roaches> by author Sharon Bell

