

## Treatment

West Somerset Council provides a charged service for treatment of pests in domestic premises.

	Price (£)
Cockroaches (two bed roomed house)	£55.00
	£15.00 (per additional room)

\* Prices correct at time of printing

West Somerset Council also have a service for

- Squirrels in houses
- Rats
- Mice
- Wasps
- Flies
- Fleas
- Bedbugs

## Food Premises

Should you wish to use this service please  
Customer Services to request an appointment.

Commercial rates can be obtained directly from the  
contractor SDK Kilsyth Limited on 0845 757 3268  
(local call rate)

## HOW TO CONTACT THE COUNCIL

### FOR ALL ENQUIRIES

#### Telephone

**01643 703704**

#### Telephone hours

8.30am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday  
(Your call may be recorded)

#### Emergency

Careline 0800 0831404 (5.00pm-8.30am)

#### Email

customerservices@westsomerset.gov.uk

#### Website

[www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk](http://www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk)

#### Minehead Customer Centre

1-3 Summerland Road, Minehead, Somerset TA24  
5BP  
Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm

#### Williton Office

West Somerset House, Killick Way, Williton,  
Taunton, Somerset TA4 4QA  
Monday - Thursday 8.30am - 5.00pm  
Friday 8.30am - 4.30pm



Information & Advice

## Cockroaches



This document can be made available  
in large print, Braille, tape format or in  
other languages upon request



## Introduction

There are more than 4,000 species of cockroach and are among the oldest creatures on earth.

The cockroach prefers warm, humid and dark conditions and is usually found in the tropics or other regions with mild climates. In the UK only a few species have become adapted to living in our houses. The insect causes a lot of damage and emits an unpleasant odour. They will eat plant and animal material, including food, paper, clothing, books and dead insects.

The most common species found in the UK are:

- German Cockroach
- Oriental Cockroach

## German Cockroach

The German cockroach is 12-15mm, mid brown, with a yellow brown thorax having two dark brown stripes and long antennae. It is capable of flying but does not do so readily.

Adult cockroaches are not active during the day but forage for food and water at night. They scavenge for any form of organic material, including human waste. As they need water they normally hide during the day in the vicinity of taps, sinks, drains and other water sources.

## Spot the difference !



German  
Cockroach



Oriental  
Cockroach

## Oriental Cockroach

The Oriental cockroach is 17-30mm, dark brown to black and is very shiny with a flattened body and has long flexible antennae. It cannot fly or climb smooth surfaces but can move very rapidly.

The mated female cockroach can lay up to 5 dark brown egg cases, each containing up to 16/18 eggs. These eggs take several weeks to develop and hatch as nymphs. The nymphs go through 7-10 stages before reaching the adult stage.

## Significance

Cockroaches foul their environment with droppings, castings and regurgitated food. They taint materials with their characteristic smell and the air may contain fragments of faeces and exoskeletons.

As well as the unpleasant smell, cockroaches are a source of allergens which can lead to allergic illnesses such as Dermatitis, Rhinitis, Bronchitis and Asthma. They damage and contaminate food products and other items, such as those made from paper, and can mechanically transmit pathogenic organism such as Salmonella, E.coli, Staphylococcus and Shigella, which can cause dysentery and gastroenteritis.

## Control

Eradication of cockroaches can be difficult and should be carried out by a professional pest contractor. They are difficult to treat because their hiding places are often difficult to reach with insecticides.

The first step is to monitor the extent of the infestation. Inspections should be carried out at night, when the cockroaches are most active, using a torch with a red filter. Cockroaches do not respond to red light.

Aerosols help to flush out the insects from their hiding places and sticky traps can also be used in areas where the cockroaches pass. As cockroaches become trapped they emit pheromones that attract more cockroaches.

When cockroaches infest a building containing more than one dwelling, it is very likely that the whole building will need to be treated.

As well as getting a professional in to treat the infestation, it is important to remove as much food and water residues as possible. It is also very important to proof and reduce areas that are difficult to access. Checks should also be made to ensure that insects or egg cases are not being introduced by incoming goods or through the drains.

Good hygiene is essential in preventing an infestation. Cockroaches must be deprived of food, water and shelter.

## Top tips for prevention

- Wash up promptly and store food in sealed containers
- Keep surfaces clean and clear of debris
- Keep rubbish in lidded containers and sealed when being disposed of
- Repair any leaking pipes and remove moisture or water sources
- Remove clutter where cockroaches might live and repair any holes and cracks in the structure of the building
- Remove loose paint and wallpaper