



COCKROACH

IDENTIFICATION CHART

KC METRO

03/10

2026 EDITION

One roach infests KC kitchens. The others wander in. Know which one you have.

#1 ROACH IN KC KITCHENS

German cockroach

The only one that truly infests indoors — 30-40 eggs per capsule, adults in about 60 days.

ROACH SEASON

Year-round indoors

American & Oriental roaches push in from sewers and mulch in summer heat and after rain.

J F M A M J J A S O N D

"WATERBUG" =

American or Oriental roach

Big roaches in basements and drains come from outside — an entry problem, not an infestation.

SKIP THE BUG BOMB

Foggers spread roaches

Foggers push German roaches deeper into voids. Gel bait + growth regulator + vacuuming wins.

1

**GERMAN COCKROACH***Blattella germanica*

1/2-5/8" INFESTS INDOORS

- Tan with two dark stripes behind the head
- Lives in kitchens & baths; hides in appliances, hinges, cracks
- Female carries the egg case until it hatches — fastest breeder

Where: Under sinks, behind the fridge & stove, dishwasher, cabinet hinges

2

**AMERICAN COCKROACH***Periplaneta americana*

1 1/2-2" SEWER ROACH

- Reddish-brown with a pale yellow band behind the head
- Glides or flies in warm weather; lives in sewers & steam tunnels
- Comes up floor drains and in from mulch beds

Where: Basements, floor drains, boiler rooms, restaurants

3

**ORIENTAL COCKROACH***Blatta orientalis*

1" "WATERBUG"

- Shiny black-brown; short or no wings; can't fly
- Loves cool, damp places; strong musty odor
- Migrates indoors in summer heat and fall

Where: Crawl spaces, basements, drains, window wells, under porches

NOT SURE WHICH ROACH YOU HAVE?

Send a photo and we'll tell you.

CALL OR TEXT

(913) 738-7827

Free ID from a licensed pro.

Many people call the American roach a "palmetto bug."

! SIGNS OF A ROACH PROBLEM

**DROPPINGS**

Pepper-like specks (German) or dark cylinders (large roaches).

**EGG CASES**

Brown, purse-shaped capsules in cracks, hinges & under shelves.

**SHED SKINS**

Pale cast skins near harborage as nymphs grow.

**SMEAR MARKS**

Dark streaks on walls and counters where roaches travel.

**DAYTIME ROACHES**

Seeing them in daylight means the hiding spots are full.

✓ THE GERMAN ROACH PLAN

- ✓ Find the harborage: monitors under sinks, behind fridge & stove
- ✓ Gel bait + growth regulator placed in cracks — not sprayed
- ✓ Vacuum live roaches, egg cases and droppings
- ✓ Fix leaks, dry sinks at night, seal food, trash out nightly
- ✓ Follow-up in 2 weeks — egg cases keep hatching

KC FIELD NOTE Big black roaches in a basement or garage after summer rains are almost always Oriental roaches coming up from drains and window wells — not an indoor infestation. Small tan roaches in the kitchen at night are German roaches: call sooner rather than later, and don't fog.



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