



American Cockroach

(periplaneta americana)
“Palmetto Bug”

LARGEST ROACH
found in our area



This roach is reddish-brown in color and about one and one-half inches in length. They are mainly found outdoors and in basements, sewers, steam tunnels and drainage systems. These roaches will fly if disturbed. Occasionally, they will wander up to upper floors in a downtown building.

While they are not common in kitchens and not the health threat of German roaches they can become a public health concern due to their association with human waste and diseases and their ability to move from sewers into commercial establishments.

Unlike the German roach the female American roach only carries its egg capsule for a short time. It deposits it on the floor, usually near a food source. Adults can live around a year and a half and sometimes a month without food or water. These roaches are scavengers and will eat almost anything, preferring decaying organic matter, sweets and starchy items.

Sealing cracks in foundations, around loose-fitting doors and windows and around pipes will help keep them out. Sanitation is also critical. Keep garbage in tight receptacles and pick up spilled foods and liquids.



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