



# Oklahoma School IPM

## German Cockroaches



Many species of cockroaches are found in and around schools. Each species prefers different environments and food. Inspect infested areas thoroughly for structural repair and sanitation needs. Remember, cockroaches can travel in backpacks, purses, and lunch bags.

**Description:** German cockroaches are the most commonly found species in homes and schools. They are 5/8 inch long, medium to light brown color with dark, long streaks the area behind the head (thorax).



Stages of cockroaches from egg case to adult

**Location:** Cockroaches hide during the day in cracks and crevices under kitchen appliances, cabinet sinks, behind baseboards, in wall voids, and pantries. They are also found in cardboard boxes and under pallets.

**Life Cycle:** German cockroaches breed throughout the year. They like humid places about 80°F.

Females produce more eggs than other cockroach species. The young complete their growth in a shorter time period than other species. Females may live more than 200 days.

**Monitoring:** Report when cockroaches are seen on pest sighting logs. The location, size, and number of cockroaches help determine how severe the problem is and if the treatment works.

**Building Maintenance:** Report leaky plumbing for repair to reduce moisture and humidity. Seal spaces around pipes in walls, baseboards, loose tile, and other areas where cockroaches hide.

**Cultural Methods:** Sanitation is very important. Clean food and drink spills. Check monitoring traps weekly and replace as necessary to determine treatment effectiveness. Unpack all items shipped in cardboard boxes. Store food and classroom supplies in plastic containers. Stack containers safely away from walls to reduce hiding places and for quick inspections.

**Pesticides:** The pest management professional will place bait and gels out of reach of students and adults. Do not disturb traps or pesticides unless instructed.



**EXTENSION**