

Types of Cockroaches in Food Industry

In the food industry, not all cockroaches are same. Different types come from different sources. Most commonly we see:

German cockroach - stays inside production area. Found behind machines, near drains, inside cracks, damp and warm areas. Source: Internal breeding → Issue is inside the facility itself

American cockroach - mostly comes from outside. Seen near drains, manholes, utility entry points. Source: Sewers and drainage lines → Enters from outside into food area

Oriental cockroach - found in cool, damp areas. Floor traps, leakage areas, wet corners. Source: Moisture and poor drainage → Indicates water stagnation / hygiene gap

Brown-banded cockroach - found in dry areas. Offices, control panels, storage racks, ceilings. Source: Dry hiding places → Not only a wet area problem

Smokybrown cockroach - mostly from outside environment. Seen near roofs, false ceilings, outside walls. Source: Outdoor vegetation and surroundings → Attracted by lights, enters at night

TYPES OF COCKROACHES IN FOOD INDUSTRY Identify the type to find the source and treat the source.				
1. GERMAN COCKROACH (Blattella germanica)	2. AMERICAN COCKROACH (Periplaneta americana)	3. ORIENTAL COCKROACH (Blatta orientalis)	4. BROWN-BANDED COCKROACH (Supella longipalpa)	5. SMOKYBROWN COCKROACH (Periplaneta fuliginosa)
				
SOURCE / WHERE FROM?	SOURCE / WHERE FROM?	SOURCE / WHERE FROM?	SOURCE / WHERE FROM?	SOURCE / WHERE FROM?
				
Breeds inside the facility. Found behind machines, near drains, in cracks, damp and warm areas.	Comes from outside. Main source is sewers, drainage lines, manholes and outside drains.	Comes from moist and damp areas. Found in floor traps, leakage areas, wet corners and basements.	Comes from dry areas. Found in offices, control panels, storage racks, ceilings and furniture.	Comes from outside environment. Source is outdoor vegetation, gardens, roofs and surroundings.
KEY POINT Internal breeder. Problem is inside the facility.	KEY POINT Enters the facility through drains and sewer lines.	KEY POINT Indicator of moisture problem and poor drainage.	KEY POINT Lives in dry hiding places. Not only a wet area problem.	KEY POINT Attracted by lights. Enters the facility at night.
 REMEMBER: TYPE → tells the SOURCE SOURCE → tells where to ACT Control the source, not just the cockroach.				

Should you have any further questions, please contact Shire's Environmental Health Officer, via email health@coolgardie.wa.gov.au.