Cockroaches

If you know what to do, you can avoid most pest problems in your home.

Follow these steps:

- Identify and monitor the pest.
- Sanitize and keep your home clean.
- Exclude pests by sealing entry points.
- Control pests by trying non-chemical methods first, then using pesticides if necessary.

Other pests in the ISCE Home Pest Management Series:

- Spiders
- Small Mammals
- Small Flies
- Scorpions
- Pantry Pests
- Fleas
- Carpenter Ants

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If cockroaches are a problem...

Identify:
- In your home:
  - Inspect boxes, furniture and other items for cockroaches before bringing them into your home.
  - Keep doors and windows in good repair.
  - Sweep and vacuum regularly.
  - Clean kitchen counters, tables and floors often.
  - If you feed your pets outside, move the food dishes away from doors.
  - Outdoors, keep garbage in a closed garbage can.

- Properly identify the pest.

Sanitize:
- Empty refrigerator drip pans regularly.
- Repair plumbing leaks.
- Clean inside and out:
  - The garbage can and other garbage containers, keep them in a closed garbage can.
  - Clean and dry the refrigerator and freezer sections, and clean the recycling bins and doors.

Exclude:
- German cockroach
  - 1/4 inch
- American cockroach
  - 1 3/4 inches

Control:
- Before you buy or use any pesticide, read the label carefully. Be sure the product is labeled for the site and the insect you will treat.
- Give baits time to work. They may take several days or longer.
- Do not spray insecticides near baits. Insecticides can contaminate the baits.
- If cockroaches remain a problem, hire a professional pest control service.

Do not leave food or pet food out or dirty dishes in the sink overnight. Clean home, start by keeping your home clean. These pests enter your home through small gaps after they enter your home. Consider pest control problems then to control cockroaches. Properly identify the pest.

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Exclude:
- Store food and pet food in glass or plastic containers with tight-fitting lids.
- Use caulk or steel wool to seal openings around plumbing pipes, and any other openings where pests can enter your home.
- Apply insecticide to baseboards, cracks, openings around water pipes, and under the sink.
- Insecticides can contaminate the baits.
- Do not spray insecticides near baits.
- The insect you will treat:
  - Read the label carefully before the insecticide is applied. Be sure the product is labeled for the site and the insect you will treat.
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