

amounts of poison mixed with an attractive bait within a container that can be secured away from pets and children.

(3) Diatomaceous Earth and Silica Gel

These are non-toxic to humans and animals but adhere to the body of the cockroach and break down the protective waxy coating of the insect causing it to die by dehydration. These products can be purchased as a dust or gel to apply into cracks and crevices and in a thin layer behind and under appliances.

Be sure to purchase diatomaceous earth that is marketed for controlling insects and not for swimming pool filters. Also, be sure to use a dust mask when handling and applying these powders.

NOTE: In order for less toxic methods to work, you **MUST** remove ALL other sources of food and water. The roaches will have no choice but to feed on the bait.

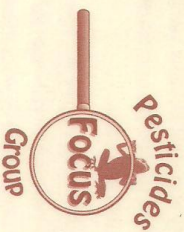
Be Patient

As with most of the "safer" methods of pest control, instant insect death is not seen; it may take a few days. However, this sacrifice is worth it to protect both yourself and the environment from exposure to harsh chemicals.



The mission of the Pesticides Focus Group is: "To promote the safe and responsible use of pesticides, and actively encourage the use of alternatives, through the implementation of new policies, regulations and educational programmes".

This brochure has been produced by the

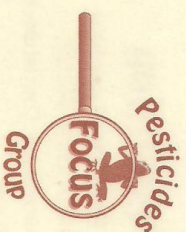


and funded by the Bermuda Government, Ministry of the Environment.



Please use all pesticides safely. Follow all instructions on the labels.

The Pesticides Focus Group will not be liable for the misuse of any of the suggested pesticide alternatives.

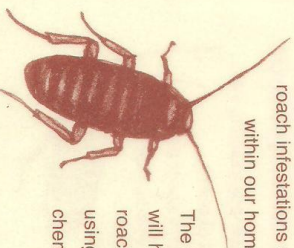


GOT ROACHES?

Cockroaches have been our housemates for about 400 million years. However, this well-established relationship does not mean that they are welcome in our homes.

Cockroaches are not only unsightly, they are also capable of disease transmission as they do not discriminate between traveling over animal feces or dinner plates. Cockroach droppings are known to aggravate asthmatic conditions for asthma sufferers. Therefore, it is best that roach infestations are eliminated from within our homes.

The following information will help you to control a roach population without using harsh or hazardous chemicals.



Prevention

Don't Provide Roaches with Food or Water.

- Good sanitation is critical. Don't let dirty dishes stack up in the sink.
- Store food in tightly sealed containers.
- Wipe down all counter surfaces to remove crumbs and liquid after food preparation.
- Clean and wash pet food bowls and wipe surrounding areas for spills.
- Keep trash in bins with tightly fitting lids.
- Fix dripping faucets and other leaks.
- Wash out food containers before storing them for recycling.
- Keep composting piles well away from the house.

Prevent Roaches from Entering Your Home.

- Seal up holes and cracks in walls or floors.
- Ensure tight seals in windows and intact screens. Weather strip door bottoms to prevent roaches from squeezing under them.
- Roaches are nocturnal - be especially careful not to leave doors and windows open at night.
- When moving old or new possessions into your home (e.g. boxes of books, magazines or furniture), inspect them outside your house to ensure that roaches are not hiding within boxes or wrappings.



Control

Non-toxic Methods Eliminate the Existing Roach Population.



When you see one roach, you can be sure that there are many more. One roach egg case can hold about 16 to 40 baby roaches. However, every one killed is one less to breed.

- Vacuum regularly in cracks, crevices, behind furniture and books to eliminate cockroaches, their egg cases and droppings.
- Use sticky traps (often sold as glue traps for mice) behind furniture, under sinks and kitchen cabinets, near toilets and along edges or walls to catch foraging roaches. This can also give you an idea of where problem areas are.

Least Toxic Chemical Control

Many conventional insecticides are ineffective due to misapplication or because roaches have developed resistance to them. It is more effective to rely on prevention and less-toxic methods of control.

(1) Boric Acid

This causes dehydration and acts as a stomach poison and can be used alone as a powder, sprinkled

in a thin layer behind and under appliances, or mixed with a food attractive to roaches. Boric acid powder can be purchased from most pharmacies.

To make a bait, mix (1 tsp) with peanut butter or dog food (2 tsp) in a small jar or dish (wrap a paper towel around the glass jar so the roaches can climb into it). This treatment is good for ant control too. **Be sure to put the jar/dish out of the reach of children or pets. Do not use boric acid where it may contact food.**

Be very careful when using it, as the powder is an irritant. Wear gloves and eye protection when mixing.

(2) Commercial Insecticidal Bait

Some pre-mixed products are available at hardware/garden centres and grocery stores. Baits are safer to use than spray type pesticides as they rely on the cockroach moving to the poison and taking it in, rather than spreading poison around the environment. Bait "stations" have small

