

# COMMON HOUSEHOLD PESTS OF INDIANA

**1. ORIENTAL COCKROACH, *Blatta orientalis* Linnaeus.** Pictured (l. to r.) are a female, male, nymph, and egg capsule. The oriental cockroach prefers dampness and is sometimes called a “water bug”. It is common in basements and may enter through sewer openings. In summer, it may live outdoors and migrate from building to building. *For control, see E-23.*

**2. AMERICAN COCKROACH, *Periplaneta americana* (Linnaeus).** Pictured (l. to r.) are a female, male, nymph, and egg capsule. The American cockroach is large — up to 1 1/2 inches long. It is more common in food establishments, but homes near such places may become infested. *For control, see E-23.*

**3. GERMAN COCKROACH, *Blattella germanica* (Linnaeus).** Pictured (l. to r.) are a female, male, nymph, and egg capsule. The German cockroach is the species most commonly found in restaurants, homes, and wherever food is stored or handled. It is often carried into homes on food containers. These insects tend to live in colonies and often occur in large numbers, especially in kitchens and bathrooms. *For control, see E-23.*

**4. BROWN-BANDED COCKROACH, *Supella longipalpa* (Fabricius).** Pictured (l. to r.) are a female, male, nymph, and egg capsule. The brown-banded cockroach is a southern species but thrives in heated houses and buildings elsewhere. It may be a pest throughout an entire house, not just one area. Egg capsules are fastened to such objects as furniture and backs of picture frames. The insects are spread to new locations in furniture and luggage. *For control, see E-23.*

**5. HOUSE FLY, *Musca domestica* Linnaeus.** Pictured (l. to r.) are the eggs, stages of development, and adult. Besides a nuisance, the house fly is a contaminator of food and potential disease carrier. It breeds in damp and decaying organic materials and moves readily from such materials to humans and exposed foods. This can result in the spread of disease organisms. Flies are abundant where sanitation is poor and where garbage and refuse are improperly handled. *For control, see E-7.*

**6. CARPET BEETLE, *Attagenus sp.*** Pictured are larvae, shed larval skin, and an adult. The black carpet beetle is one of several species of carpet beetles. The larvae feed on rugs, fabrics, lint, refuse or stored foods. Generally, they are found in wall voids, floor cracks, and other hidden places where lint and debris collect. But they may roam about and be found throughout a building. *For control, see E-18.*

**7. WEBBING CLOTHES MOTH, *Tineola bisselliella* (Hummel).** Pictured are the adult moth and a larva in its silken web. Larvae of a closely-related species live in silken cases. Only larvae cause damage by feeding on wool, fur, feathers, and other materials of animal origin. The adult moth is very similar in appearance to the angoumois grain moth, a pest of stored whole grain. But there is one difference — the clothes moth shuns light; the angoumois grain moth does not. *For control, see E-18.*

**8. SILVERFISH, *Lepisma saccharina* Linnaeus.** Pictured is one of several species that damage book bindings, paper, clothing, and other articles containing protein and starch. Silverfish are fast moving, about 1/2 inch long, and prefer warm, humid conditions. The firebrat, a close relative, is darker and prefers hot, dry conditions.

**9. FLEA, *Ctenocephalides felis* (Bouche).** Adult fleas live and feed on dogs, cats, hogs, and other animals. They drop their eggs at random; the larvae then develop on rugs, floors, in kennels and barns, or any place frequented by infested animals. These worm-like scavengers feed on bits of food, dead insects, and other refuse. Some fleas will bite humans, especially if deprived of the animals on which they normally feed. *For control, see E-8.*

**10. BROWN DOG TICK, *Rhipicephalus sanguineus* (Latreille).** The brown dog tick lives and breeds indoors. It often infests kennels and parts of buildings where dogs are kept. After feeding, it drops off its host and hides in cracks and crevices. Because of their tendency to climb, brown dog ticks are often found behind cove moldings, window frames, and in furniture. The American dog tick (not pictured) is generally a nuisance only out-of-doors. *For control, see E-71.*

**11. PAVEMENT ANT, *Tetramorium caespitum* (Linnaeus).** The pavement ant is one of many kinds that invade buildings. Most ants nest in the soil and then enter homes in search of food. Warm soil beneath houses built on concrete slabs is ideal for nesting. In such cases, ants may be a problem in winter as well as summer. Few species nest indoors. *For control, see E-22.*

**12. SUBTERRANEAN TERMITE, *Reticulitermes flavipes* (Kollar).** Pictured (l. to r.) are a winged swarmer, worker, soldier, and developing reproductive; the one with the large brown head is a soldier. Termites live and work in concealment, except the swarmer. They first eat the soft grain of wood then seal up surface breaks with dirt and mud. Subterranean termites usually need contact with the soil to survive. This contact is made through wood touching soil, through shelter tubes built over and inside foundation walls, or through cracks and openings in concrete slabs. *For control, see E-4.*

**13. POWDER POST BEETLE, *Lyctus planicollis* LeConte.** Pictured is one type that attacks hardwoods; other kinds infest pine and similar softwoods. Powder post beetles may continually reinfest wood until the interior is reduced to a powdery mass. Adults make numerous “shot holes” in the wood surface as they emerge. No soil contact is necessary. *For control, see E-73.*

**14. CARPENTER ANT, *Camponotus pennsylvanicus* (DeGeer).** Pictured are the winged and wingless forms. Carpenter ants hollow out wood in order to nest. They usually live in the heartwood of dying trees but sometimes nest in homes, especially if the wood is damp. Those living outdoors may enter homes in search of food. *For control, see E-22.*

**15. BOXELDER BUG, *Leptocoris trivittatus* (Say).** Pictured (l. to r.) are the nymph and adult. The boxelder bug normally develops on seed-bearing boxelder trees. In fall, they enter homes to hibernate. They do not cause damage indoors, but are annoying. *For control, see E-24.*

## Current Control Information

The information and color illustrations presented here are designed to help you correctly identify some common household pests found in Indiana. These insects and the problems they cause do not change, but methods of dealing with them do. Therefore, Purdue University extension entomologists have prepared the following publications to keep you up to date on the latest recommended control methods and materials:

- E-4 Termite Control
- E-7 Fly Control Around the Home
- E-8 Fleas
- E-18 Controlling Clothes Moths and Carpet Beetles
- E-22 Ants
- E-23 Controlling Cockroaches
- E-24 Boxelder Bugs
- E-71 Ticks - Biology and Control
- E-73 Powder Post Beetles

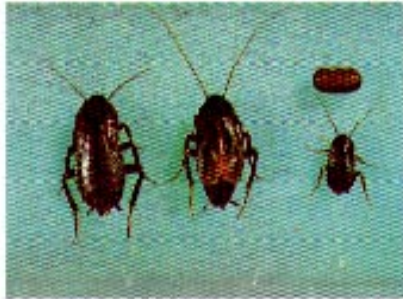
Single copies of these publications, revised periodically, may be obtained by Indiana residents from their local county Cooperative Extension Service office or from Agricultural Communication Media Distribution Center, 301 South 2nd Street, Lafayette, IN 47901-1232, Phone: 765-494-6794.

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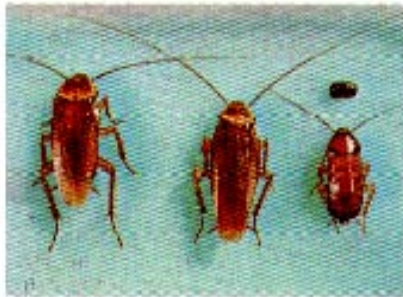
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For safe and effective use of insecticides, always identify the problem correctly.



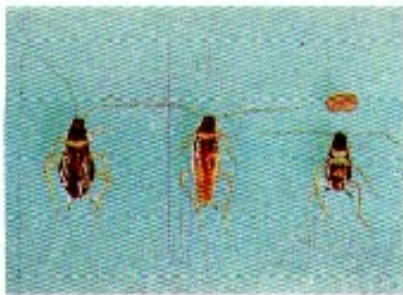
1. Oriental cockroach



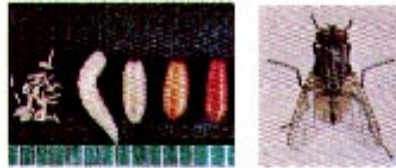
2. American cockroach



3. German cockroach



4. Brown-banded cockroach



5. House fly



6. Black Carpet beetle

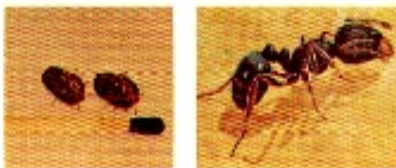


7. Webbing clothes moth



8. Silverfish

9. Flea



10. Brown dog tick

11. Pavement ant



12. Subterranean termite



13. Powder-post beetle



14. Carpenter ant



15. Boxelder bug

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