**Which one is it?**

**German Cockroach**
- *Blattella germanica*
- **Adult size**: 0.5 inch
- **Wings**: Light brown. Two black stripes on pronotum (back of head).
- **Egg Case**: Light brown. Egg case glued to ceilings, picture frames, furniture, in closets or other dark places.
- **Feces**: Similar to mouse droppings. Under magnifier, one end is rounded, the other is slightly tapered.
- **Habitat**: Warms, moist areas. Prefers kitchens and bathrooms. Likes to squeeze into tight cracks.

**Supella longipalpa**
- **Female on left (in magnifier)**
- **Habitat**: Warms, moist areas. Prefers kitchens and bathrooms. Likes to squeeze into tight cracks.

**Oriental Cockroach**
- *Blatta orientalis*
- **Female on right (in magnifier)**
- **Habitat**: Warms, moist areas in basements, near nest site.

**American Cockroach**
- *Periplaneta americana*
- **Female on bottom (in magnifier)**
- **Habitat**: Warms, moist areas in basements, near nest site.

**Brownbanded Cockroach**
- *Supella longipalpa*
- **Female on left (in magnifier)**
- **Habitat**: Warms, moist areas. Prefers kitchens and bathrooms. Likes to squeeze into tight cracks.

**Note:** The Pennsylvania wood roach is sometimes discovered in homes during warm months. It is about the size of the German and brownbanded but does not reproduce inside and dies quickly.

**Habitat**
- Warm, moist areas. Prefers kitchens and bathrooms. Likes to squeeze into tight cracks.
- Throughout the house, prefers high locations. Also in closets, under furniture, and in heat-generating appliances.
- Below ground level, in damp crawl spaces, basements, and floor drains. Can overwinter in cisterns and other protected outdoor spaces.
- Usually in commercial structures. Prefers warm, moist areas in basements, near heating ducts, pipe chase areas, and sewers. Forages mostly on first floors.

**Feces**
- Pepper-like specks on the wall, near nest site.
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**Wings**
- Covers tip of abdomen.
- Female's wings do not quite cover tip of her abdomen; male's wings do cover tip of his abdomen.
- Traces of wings on females, short wings on males.
- Dark brown. Eggs case deposited on debris or food in sheltered area.
- Nearly black. Egg case deposited on debris or food in sheltered area.
- Similar to mouse droppings. Under magnifier, one end is rounded, the other is slightly tapered.

**Egg Case**
- Light brown. Female carries it until 1-2 days before hatch.
- Light brown. Egg case glued to ceilings, picture frames, furniture, in closets or other dark places.
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**Thorax**
- “Body”
- Light brown. Light colored bands on wings (both sexes). Bands more noticeable in nymphs than adults.
- Dark, reddish-brown to black.
- Dark brown. Blends with surroundings; hidden in cracks, soft wood, moist debris.
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**Feces**
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Is your home fit for cockroaches?

Why can’t I just spray?

Because roaches take their food before eating it, they learn to avoid chemically treated surfaces. This habit limits the long-term effectiveness of some insecticides. Also, many eggs are not affected by pesticides. Cockroaches make evasive moves so those that aren’t killed can breed and spread. 

Integrated pest management (IPM) focuses on preventing your current problem and preventing future invasions. Make your home uninviting—fix the problem at its source—or you’ll likely welcome roaches again.

To find the lair, think like a roach

To find the lair, look in the common posts in New York. The German cockroach, American cockroach, oriental cockroach, and brownbanded cockroach are the common roaches in New York. These roaches have similar biology, but there are a few differences. Like all cockroaches, these roaches are scavengers, feeding on food, water, and shelter. They live in basements, kitchens, bathrooms, and basements. They are attracted to moisture and warm, dark areas.

To find the lair, you need to know what makes roaches scatter, so those that aren’t killed can breed and spread. 

Kitchens: You’re most likely to find German cockroaches here. Look on cabinets, drawers, and behind cabinets and under cabinets. Search for whatever it is that organ—oven, cardboard, and the glue that holds these cabinets together. You can find water, although the brownbanded cockroach can live for several weeks with minimal water. Cockroaches can be found in many places, such as behind the refrigerator or the wall. Check the back of the refrigerator and the room where it’s located.

Bathrooms: Check all the rooms in the home for any evidence of roaches. Look for evidence of roaches, including egg cases, exoskeletons (“skins”), and feces. You can also find living or dead roaches, shed 

Other locations: Vacuums, drapes and furniture, especially under cushions and in crevices. Empty and clean book shelves, and check the books. Look for books, bookends, books, and in places. Check the bookshelves and bookcases, looking into any space. 

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Releasing of roaches

To quickly reduce cockroach populations, vacuum them with the hose attachment, preferably using a machine with a HEPA filter. As soon as you’ve done, remove the hose and vacuum your yard to get rid of any leftover food. If you find another roach, repeat the procedure. Remember to take about two weeks to see results. These baits act as a food source, so make sure to check the bait only hungry roaches will be attracted to them. Some baits will eat the bait directly, while others will be poisoned feeding on eating roaches. Don’t use pesticides or cleaning compounds near the bait. This will make the roaches scatter, so those that aren’t killed can breed and spread. 

Eliminate their shelter

• Remove clutter and debris (both inside and outside).
• Secure loose wallpaper, counters, and splashboard.
• Secure inside equipment (even motors anywhere it’s warm and dark) such as clocks, televisions, stereo’s, and computers.
• Keep machines and equipment safe.

Cooking: Your home is fit for cockroaches when:

• Closed openings around pipes, vents, drains, register, dressers, floors, or sinks.
• Fix cracks in walls (inside and out) and floors.
• Tighten doors, windows, and screens.
• Inspect, put, and use water unattended.

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To prevent future invasions

• Close openings around pipes, vents, drains, register, dressers, floors, or sinks.
• Fix cracks in walls (inside and out) and floors.
• Tighten doors, windows, and screens.
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Keep them starved and pargeted

• Store food in tightly closed containers off the floor and away from walls, or keep it in the refrigerator. Rotate stock, inspect.
• Scour the kitchen. Clean refrigerator; cabinets, drawers, counters, floor, sinks, corners; fixtures, and under the sink. Keep it clean!
• Empty and secure trash, compost, and dry foods daily.
• Repair leaks. Seal gaps around pipes, tubes, and sinks. Keep bathtub dry. Eliminate other “wetting holes.”
• Wash and dry dishes promptly. Wipe up spills and puddles.
• Don’t leave pet’s food or water unattended.

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If you live in a multi-family dwelling, speak to the building managers about the problem. If the response is unsatisfactory, contact your local health department.