

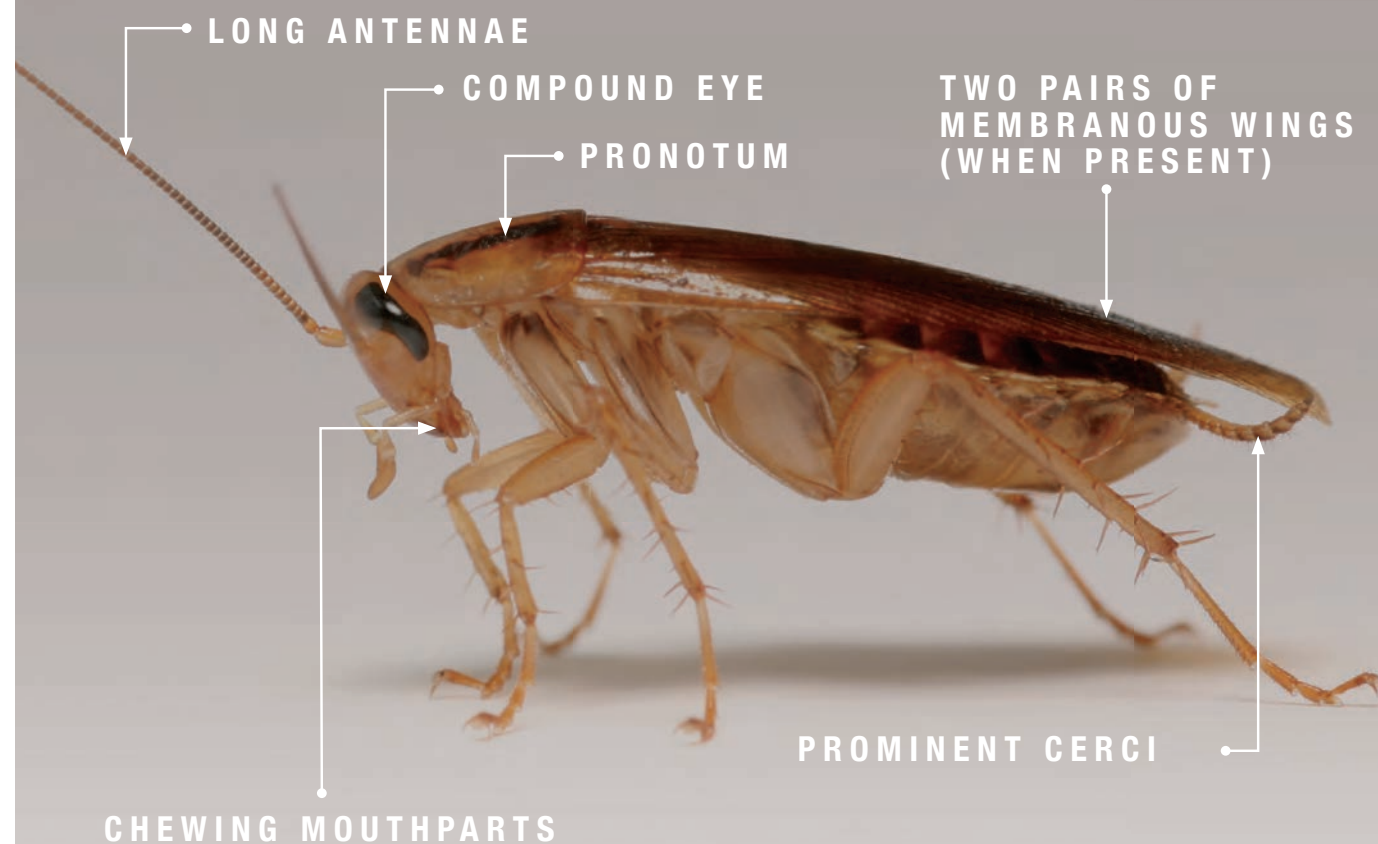
# COCKROACH

PHYLUM: ARTHROPODA  
ORDER: BLATTODEA

## ALIASES:

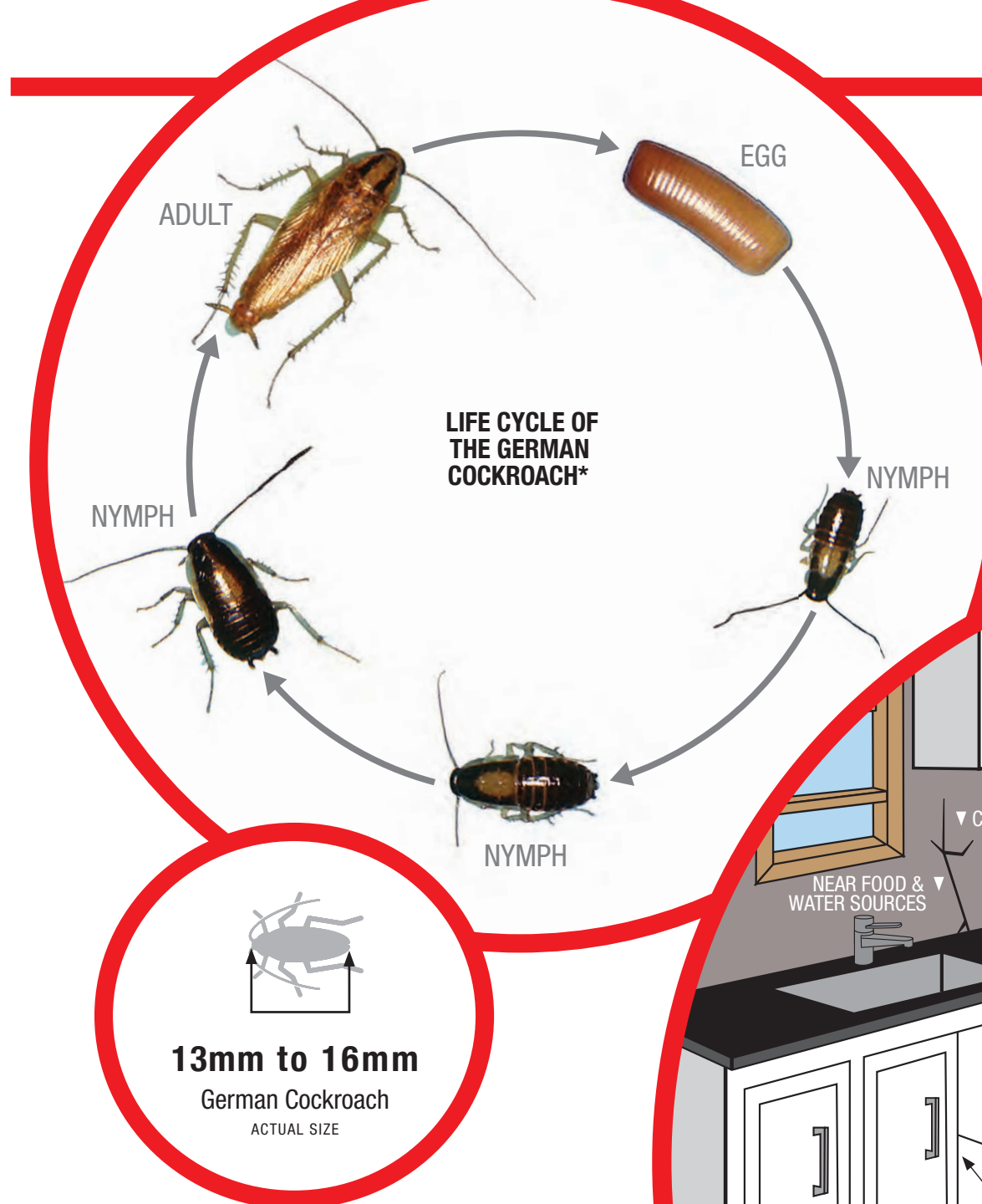
LA CUCARACHA, PALMETTO BUG, WATER BUG, CROTON BUG

Cockroaches are among the most successful creatures on earth, negatively impacting the quality of life of mankind since the dawn of civilization. While approximately 4,500 species exist around the world, pest control technicians in North America typically do battle with only a handful of problematic species including German, American, oriental, and smokybrown cockroaches. These pervasive insects are born survivors thanks to their omnivorous diet, reproductive potential, and ability to adapt to a wide range of environments from arctic cold to tropical heat.



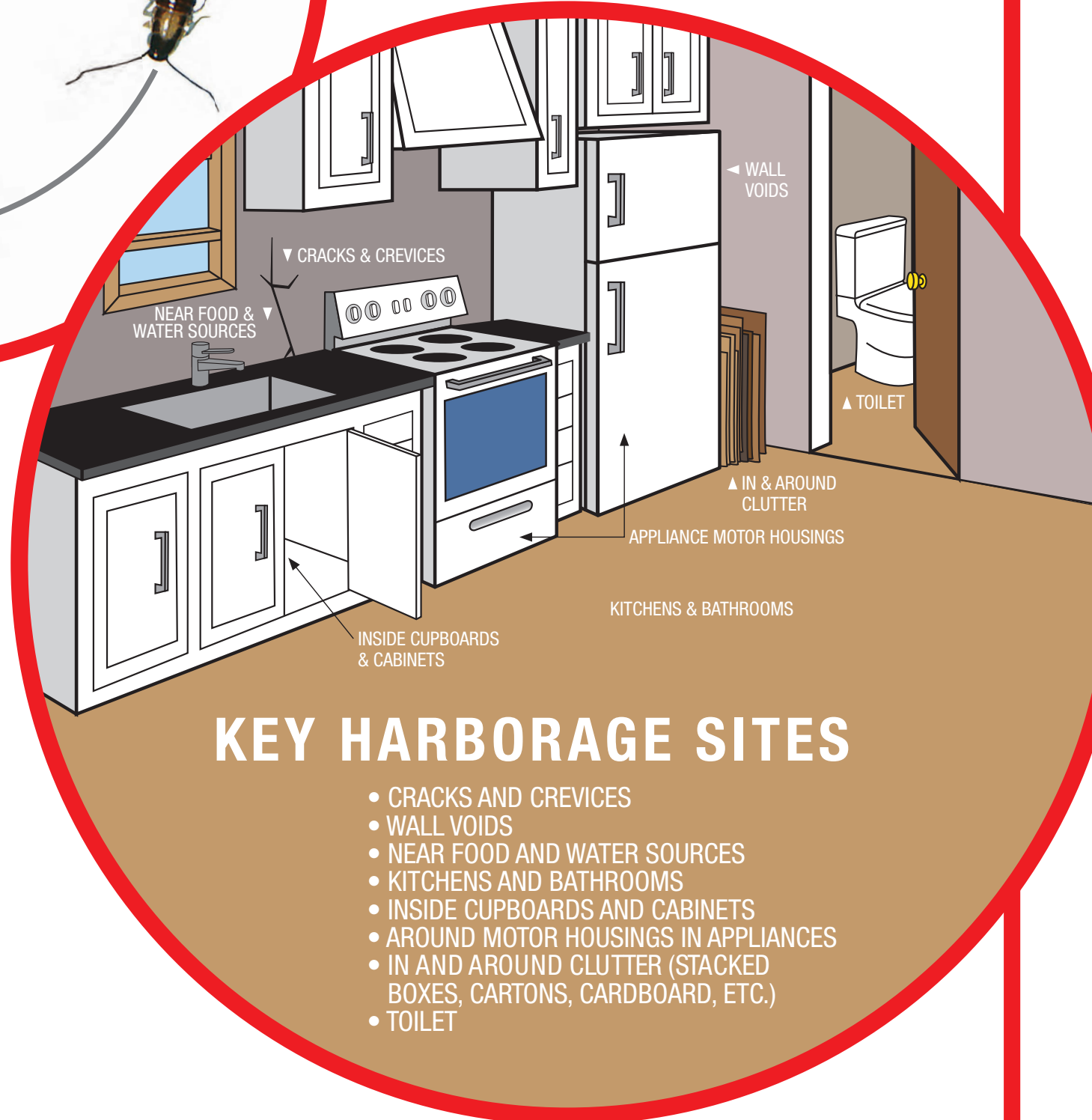
## DESCRIPTION

Cockroaches are flat, oval insects, typically measuring 13mm to 50mm long. In some species, the head is concealed from above by the large pronotum, a plate-like structure that also covers part of the thorax. Cockroaches have long, hair-like antennae and chewing mouthparts. Their flat body structure makes them ideally suited to harbor within tight cracks and crevices. Most adult males have wings and can fly; females often have short wings or none at all and are unable to fly. Nymphs are similar to adults, except for their smaller size and absence of wings. Eggs are enclosed in a leathery looking egg capsule called an ootheca.



## COMMON SPECIES

- German cockroach, *Blattella germanica*
- Smokybrown cockroach, *Periplaneta fuliginosa*
- American cockroach, *Periplaneta americana*
- Oriental cockroach, *Blatta orientalis*



## LIFE CYCLE

Cockroaches undergo **gradual metamorphosis**, passing through three life stages – egg, nymph and adult. Nymphs are similar in appearance to adults, but smaller. Freshly molted cockroaches are white, assuming their typical coloration within a few hours as their cuticle hardens. The life cycle from egg to adult is dependent upon environmental conditions and the specific cockroach species.

## WHEN AND WHERE DO YOU USE AN IGR?

Insect Growth Regulators (IGRs) are ideal for use against insects like cockroaches that are notorious for developing insecticide resistance. When baiting for cockroaches, use a product that incorporates an IGR like Pesguard® Gel and apply near or into suspected harborage areas, behind appliances, under sinks and cabinets, etc. The IGR will interrupt the life cycle of cockroaches, resulting in enhanced control. While customers may see adult cockroaches that look abnormal (twisted wings) following treatment, these insects will be incapable of reproduction.

## ▲ BAITING TIPS

- Place Bait Close to Harborage Sites
- Reduce Competing Food Sources
- Place Sufficient Bait
- Think 3-Dimensionally
- Practice Bait Rotation

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