

## Remarkable Cockroaches

The cockroach is one of the most resilient animals on Earth. These insects live everywhere humans live. In fact, they need the same things we need: moisture, food, and warmth. They'll eat almost anything you and I eat, and they live in our snug, warm buildings year round. You might find them to be creepy and disgusting, but cockroaches are survivalists. Let's look at them more closely:

A cockroach can actually survive the radiation given off from a nuclear bomb and live for a week without its head. It will die only when it starves to death because it cannot eat without its mouth. A cockroach that is both blind and deaf can still find its way around by using its antennae. The scary looking hairs on its legs and body can sense moving air, such as your foot coming down to step on the roach. When the cockroach senses danger, it can squeeze into a hiding space as thin as a dime. Don't bother trying to drown a cockroach-it can hold its breath underwater for over 40 minutes!

Cockroaches come out mainly at night and will run for their hiding places when they are exposed to light. Even at night, it is hard to see them except in the few seconds it takes them to run away when you flip on the lights. Since cockroaches come into our homes to eat food that is left on countertops and in open garbage, make sure you clean up after cooking and eating. Rinse out your recyclables, and seal your trash tightly. These precautions will help you get rid of any cockroaches that may be in your home.

Nothing we do will keep cockroaches away forever. After all, they have been around since before the dinosaurs! As well as eating what we eat, cockroaches can eat anything organic. They will eat the glue off a postage stamp, cloth, and even paper. On the plus side, they clean the environment and help recycle garbage. Of the 4,000 species of cockroaches, less than 1% are a nuisance to human beings. The Loud Madagascar hissing cockroaches are even kept as pets by some people. Whether you love them or hate them, they're here to stay.