



Fact Sheet

Pest Management

MRAC completes annual termite inspections to check any live termites or termites damage is present. This is a MRAC responsibility.

Most other pests can be managed by tenants.

Cockroaches

Cockroaches are the most common pest in Australia and may carry a range of bacteria including salmonella, staphylococcus, and streptococcus. Cockroaches can also harbour other viruses.

Cockroach droppings also damage hinges and leave an unsightly mess that is hard to clean.

If you find cockroaches in your home, there are things you can do yourself. If you can't get rid of them, then call MRAC however treatments are generally charged to the tenant.

What can I do to get rid of cockroaches?

Seal cracks and holes – if you find cracks and holes or gaps in walls, doorways, or windows, try sealing them with steel wool and make sure you show the Housing Officer at your next inspection. MRAC may be able to get a contractor to seal or caulk them.

If you have **damp, mulch filled garden beds** along the side of your house, shift the beds further away and make sure there is a gap between the garden bed and the house wall.

Recycle or dispose of cardboard food or storage boxes is the simplest way to stop them using them as a breeding ground or their next meal.

Cardboard boxes are a reliable food source and common breeding spots.

Regularly and thoroughly clean your kitchen as above all else cockroaches are attracted to easily accessible food sources. Keep your kitchen as clean and hygienic as possible at all times. This includes emptying your kitchen bin regularly ensuring left over food is kept in airtight containers and scrubbing grease from your stove top and appliances. Wiping down benchtops and surfaces, washing dishes is also important and do a few extra cleaning tasks every day to keep it clean and cockroach free.

As pet food is generally on the ground, thoroughly empty, clean, and dry your pet's food bowl every day so no crumbs are left out overnight.

Limit access to water sources. Cockroaches can only survive two weeks without water. Check any taps or appliances around your house for leakages and patch any appliance leakage or contact MRAC if you have dripping taps, etc.

Try a natural remedy, which can also be used to get rid of **black ants** around your house. Mix one part baking soda to one part sugar or honey. Place in a small bowl in a spot where you regularly find cockroaches (or ants) and leave overnight. The baking soda will kill the cockroaches and ants and the mixture is safe to use around children and pets.

If you are still having trouble, try a surface spray but please be very careful around children and pets. Please follow the safety instructions on the label.

If you are still having trouble, contact MRAC on 9923 0055 to arrange a treatment.