

# COCKROACHES, PESTS & VERMIN FACT SHEET

## Dealing with pests and vermin

It is your responsibility as a tenant to keep your home free of pests and vermin. However, if you have been in your home for less than 90 days (the incubation time for many of these pests) UnitingSA Housing will assist in removing pests and vermin.

This table below will help you work out the pests you are responsible for dealing with and the pests which UnitingSA Housing will help remove.

PEST	TENANT RESPONSIBILITY?	UNITINGSA HOUSING ASSISTANCE	OTHER ASSISTANCE
Ants	Yes		
Bees and mud wasps	Yes	Will assist if the nest is in the chimney space, inside a cavity wall or under an external porch.	Talk to your local council.
European wasps	Yes	Will remove only if local council does not provide the service.	Try your local council first.
Birds		Will remove birds from roof and seal entry points.	
Cockroaches, fleas and spiders	Yes	Will assist if you have been living in the home less than 90 days.	
Mice and rats	Yes	Will seal any opening which could be used by mice or rats, and may assist if mice or rats are at 'plague' levels.	
Possoms		Will remove the possums and seal any obvious access holes in your home.	
Snakes	Yes		Talk to your local council and private snake catchers.
White ants	Tenant to advise UnitingSA Housing.	Will treat the problem and protect the structure of your home.	

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## FACT SHEET

### Facts about cockroaches:

- Cockroaches even live in the walls of clean homes; they just have larger colonies in less clean homes due to a bigger food supply available.
- Cockroaches can live a month without food, but only a week without water.
- Cockroaches love onions.
- Cockroaches eat meat; they are omnivores, so they will eat just about anything including dead animals.

### How do I get rid of cockroaches?

Cockroaches are among the most common insects. If you've seen cockroaches in your home or apartment, there are probably many more out of view.

#### To eradicate cockroaches, try the following strategies:

- Make your own insecticide by mixing equal parts of baking soda and powdered sugar and setting up a mock bait plate. After mixing your sugar and soda, leave the mixture in a shallow dish where cockroaches have been seen or are known to travel. The combination of sugar and soda is lethal to the cockroach.
- You can naturally and safely keep most cockroaches at bay by placing bay leaves anywhere you've seen them. Using bay leaves is a great way to keep cockroaches out of the rooms and play areas of children.
- Cockroaches can survive months without eating, but they need a daily source of water to thrive. Never leave water in the sink, in dirty dishes, or other areas of the house. Check other sources of water as well, such as leaky plumbing, under-refrigerator dampness, and concrete sweating. Wipe all traces of water from the sink after you've done the dishes and wipe down the bath area after use.
- Clean, clean, clean! Cockroaches naturally gravitate toward areas which are littered with cockroach droppings.
- Use a detergent or disinfectant to thoroughly clean the area and deter a re-infestation. On concrete floors and walls, you can use a mixture of bleach and water to disinfect the area. Other areas can be cleaned with everyday cleansers or antibacterial soaps and scrubs.

### How do I prevent cockroaches in my home?

- Avoid dampness within the house, especially in the kitchen and near water pipes and sinks. Repair leaking faucets, make sure the drainage is working and avoid spilling water.
- Keep the house clean and tidy. Clothes and other household articles should not be kept on the floor. Remove clutter (e.g. newspapers, piles of boxes etc.) from areas where you've seen cockroaches.
- Store food in closed containers or keep it inside closed cupboards. Household refuse should be placed in closed containers and disposed of properly.
- Plug cracks and crevices in walls and floors to eliminate hiding places of cockroaches.
- Keep your yard clean and rubbish free and make adequate arrangements for both liquid and solid waste disposal.
- Outside, trim bushes near air vents to keep cockroaches from getting into the house.