



# ***Maintaining the Home***

## ***Cockroach Control (Silica)***

# Maintaining the Home: Cockroach Control (Silica)

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## Silica

Silica aerogel dust absorbs the waterproof layer of wax on the roach's body and causes death by dehydration. A visible film of dust should be applied with a squeeze bulb or plunger duster to suspected roach hiding places. Contact with the chemical is necessary for control. Silica aerogel is particularly effective in controlling roaches in attics, wall voids or other closed spaces. However, the roaches will learn to avoid treated areas. The dust loses its effectiveness if it becomes wet, so do not use it in damp areas.

It is necessary to spray household walls, underneath sides of shelves, both sides of drawers, under sinks and lavatories, around baseboards, around floor drains and under any large appliances. Direct sprays into the cracks and crevices. Do not spray surfaces like breadboards and countertops that come in direct contact with food. Scatter bait under refrigerators, ranges, dishwashers, clothes washers and under cabinets. After spray is dry, cover shelves with clean, untreated shelf paper before replacing food and dishes.

Mention of commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no endorsement is implied and no discrimination is intended by the NMSU Cooperative Extension Service.

| Materials                                      | Suggestions   |
|--|---|
| Avert bait*—<br>placements per label           |   |
| (Abamectin B1,<br>a mixture of<br>ivermectins) | Use precautions to keep chemicals out of food and spices and off dishes and eating utensils. Treat cracks and crevices and all potential hiding places. Make food and water sources inaccessible to roaches through good sanitation. Some products labeled for roach control contain boric acid. Although these are effective, their killing action is slow. Sanitation and cleanup will help reduce problems with cockroaches. |
| Baygon 2.0% bait*                              |   |
| Bendiocarb (Ficam) 1%<br>dust                  |   |
| Catalyst*—0.5 to 1%<br>spray                   |   |
| Commodore WP*—<br>0.03% spray                  |   |
| Cynoff EC/WSB/WP*—<br>0.1 to 0.2% spray        |   |
| Delta Dust*—0.05%<br>(deltamethrin)            |   |

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|--|---|
| Demand CS*—0.15 to 0.03% spray   |   |
| Demon EC/WP*—0.1% spray  |   |
| Diazinon 0.5% aerosol or ready-to-use spray  |   |
| Dursban 0.5% aerosol or ready-to-use, or   |   |
| Dursban 1% dust—per label directions   |   |
| Dursban 12.6% EC—per label directions  |   |
| Ficam Plus*—per label  |   |
| Flee*/Dragnet FT*—0.5% spray   |   |
| BioPath* (microbial bait stations)   | BioPath is a biocontrol bait station containing a fungus that controls cockroaches. Use per label directions.                   |
| Gentrol —0.06% dilution (hydroprene—1GR)   | Products containing hydroprene (Gentrol, with Gencor), a growth regulator, can be helpful in controlling cockroach populations. |
| Hydramethylnon (e.g. Combat or MaxForce) bait stations—per label directions                  |   |
| Ortho products (per label directions)<br>Total Flea Killer Flying and Crawling Insect Killer |   |
| Niban Granular bait* (made by Nisus Corp.)   | Use Niban bait per label directions   |
| Saga Multi-Purpose Spray* or Saga WP*—per label  |   |
| Silica gel powders   |   |
| Suspend SC*—0.03 to 0.06% spray  |   |
| Tempo 1, 20WP* or 0.1& dust—per label  |   |

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Traps              | Pesticidal roach sticky traps can help control roaches and provide an indication of roach problems.   |
| Ultrasonic devices | Research at other universities has proven these devices to be ineffective. They are not registered by the New Mexico Department of Agriculture. Therefore, they cannot be sold. |

\*These are restricted-use pesticides available only to licensed applicants.

This material was adapted from publications produced by New Mexico State University. New Mexico State Cooperative Extension publications can be found on the Web at <http://www.cahe.nmsu.edu/pubs/>.

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*This resource is one in a series on **Maintaining the Home** which include:*

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### **Interior Maintenance**

Preventive Home Maintenance Checkup  
Make a Basic Toolkit for Simple Home Repairs  
Selection and Use of Home Cleaning Products  
Discovering the Secrets of Successful Storage

### **Heating**

Furnace Care  
Fireplace and Chimney Care

### **Cooling**

Evaporative Cooler  
Air Conditioner  
Ceiling Fans

### **Plumbing**

Fixing Plugged Sink Drains  
How to Unclog a Toilet  
Repairing Dripping Faucets

### **Electrical**

How to Set or Reset a Circuit Breaker  
How to Replace a Fuse

### **Appliances**

How to Buy an Energy Efficient Home Appliance  
Choosing a Water Heater

### **Maintenance:**

Dishwasher Care and Dishwasher Cleaning  
Dryer Care and Dryer Cleaning  
Freezer Care and Freezer Cleaning  
Garbage Disposal Care and Cleaning  
Range and Oven Care and Range Cleaning  
Refrigerator Care and Refrigerator Cleaning  
Small Electrical Appliance Care and Cleaning  
Washer Care and Cleaning

### **Flooring**

Buying new carpet  
Carpet Care and Cleaning  
Wood Floors Care and Cleaning  
Ceramic Tile Floors Care and Cleaning  
Vinyl Floor Coverings Care and Cleaning

### **Walls**

Selecting and Applying Paint  
Wallpaper Selection and Cleaning  
Repairing Walls

### **Furniture**

Furnishing Your New Home: Color and Design  
Selecting Fabric For Home Furnishings

### **Exterior Maintenance**

#### **Home Exterior**

Foundations, Basements and Yards  
Exterior Walls, Windows, and Doors

#### **Roof**

A Guide To Roofs  
Roof Maintenance

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Principles of Xeriscape  
Watering Your Lawn

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Is Your Home Safe From Fire Hazards?  
Smoke Alarms Save Lives  
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Are Your Children Safe From Poisons?  
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## **Conservation**

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Indoor Water Conservation Tips  
Outdoor Water Conservation Tips

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Dealing with Mold  
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