



The Cockroach Egg Case

Nature Created It to Challenge Your Best Efforts!

If you're using only cockroach baits in an account, you're not going to affect cockroach egg cases at all. Spraying a residual insecticide is not going to affect egg cases either. The leathery outer covering of an egg case protects the developing nymphs inside from water loss, predators, parasites, and usually... insecticides.

When you do a thorough insecticide treatment you kill a lot of German cockroaches. But you don't kill them all, and the ones that survive are likely to be females with egg cases. Females that are carrying egg cases tend to stay hidden away deep in cracks and crevices until just before the egg case hatches. (Just one more reason why a good crack & crevice treatment is so important.) Females with egg cases also cut back on food so your bait may not be eaten. Even if the female does succumb to your insecticide, if the egg case is developed enough and especially if she has just deposited it, it will still hatch releasing about 30 tiny nymphs.

So, if you've eliminated the other cockroaches from the account, these newly hatched nymphs will be the only roaches that your client sees after treatment. That's when you're apt to hear "That stuff must not work. After you treat I see lots of baby roaches!"

Explain the situation to your client and reassure her that the residual insecticide (or the cockroach bait) should soon kill the newly-hatched nymphs. However if an egg case hatches weeks after your treatment (egg case development typically takes more than 30 days), you may need to retreat to maintain control.

But maybe the best control for egg cases is to sweep them up or vacuum them up and dispose of them to prevent nymphs from hatching out in the account in the first place. A German cockroach egg case that is split open along the seam has already hatched. An egg case with dents or depressions is probably too dried out to hatch, but a plump, full egg case is probably just hours from hatching.

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The course presenter is a qualified food safety auditor with British Retail Consortium trained in London, and has completed all the American Baking Institute courses in the USA.

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