If you decide to use a professional pest control company, ask questions about what they will do. If they use pesticides, ask to see their Michigan pesticide applicator’s license and write down the license number. Find out what they recommend to protect children, pets, and family members.

How can I keep cockroaches out?
Even if a building has many cockroaches, you CAN help keep cockroaches out of your living area by doing the following:

- Clean and repair areas where you find cockroaches. Caulk cracks along floors, add screens to floor drains, and paint cracks in cabinets to seal them. Pay special attention to areas where dust and food fall, and vacuum and wash these areas thoroughly.

- Dry up wet areas and repair leaky faucets or drains that create moist spots. Remove pet water dishes at night.

- Keep all food in containers with tight lids. Keep tables, counters, sinks, and floors clean and dry.

- Remove clutter to make cleaning easier and to get rid of hiding places for cockroaches.

- Make cleaning and repairs a group effort. In apartments or group housing, ask your neighbors to do what you are doing to their living areas to help keep cockroaches out.

Remember
If you try these things and still have a problem, get help or more advice from professional pest control companies or resource agencies.

Cockroach baits, sprays, liquids and powders, and other pesticides are poisons. Keep kids and pets away from pesticides. Store pesticides in locked cabinets or out of reach, and store them away from food.

Call the Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222. Keep this number with your emergency phone numbers.

If someone is poisoned by pesticides, don’t delay!
Different kinds of cockroaches prefer different places. American and Oriental cockroaches like warm, damp spots like basements or furnace rooms. Brown-banded cockroaches may be found anywhere, even in drawers. German cockroaches are usually found in areas with food, warmth, and moisture such as kitchens and baths.

**Cockroaches move around at night: if you see roaches during the day then it’s likely there are several of them in the area.**

**Are cockroaches harmful?**

Cockroaches are not pleasant to have around, but they won’t bite or sting you. Cockroaches crawl through waste and garbage, so they may pick up and spread bacteria and diseases.

Some adults and children are allergic to cockroaches, and there can be bad odors in areas with a lot of cockroaches. If you or your child have asthma, exposure to cockroaches may cause asthma attacks.

**How can I get rid of cockroaches?**

Some control methods take time to work. If you have a lot of cockroaches, it may take a few weeks, a month, or longer to get rid of them.

**Remember that just killing cockroaches won’t keep them from coming back. You need to find ways to keep them out.**

**Control Methods**

**Traps**

Cockroach traps are used primarily for monitoring purposes. If you find large numbers of cockroaches in your trap, they are probably living or feeding nearby. If you have a lot of cockroaches, using traps alone probably won’t get rid of them.

Traps usually have a bait to attract the cockroaches. Sometimes bait is a poison, so keep traps away from children and pets. Some traps work better for certain kinds of cockroaches; try a different trap if yours isn’t working.

Put traps in the paths cockroaches use - along the edges of walls or in cabinets. You may need several (about two or three every 100 square feet.)

If you have only a few cockroaches, you could use a heavy duty vacuum to sweep them up. They should suffocate in the dust of the bag. Throw out the bag to make sure they don’t escape.

**Pesticides**

If you use pesticides to kill cockroaches, use the least toxic available. These pesticides will be labeled with the word “Caution.”

Pesticides are poisons, so follow label directions and use them carefully. Don’t use pesticides around food or on food preparation surfaces. Keep children and pets away from areas where pesticides have been applied, as the label requires.

Never use a pesticide that doesn’t have a label attached to the container, and make sure the pesticide is labeled for indoor use.

The following pesticides will kill cockroaches and pose less risk to people and pets when used properly:

**Boric acid** is a powder used in cracks. Cockroaches will either walk through it, attaching it to their body, or eventually eat it. A light dusting is all you need. Buy a product with a nozzle so you can squirt it into a crack.

**Baits** are used to attract and poison cockroaches when they eat them. They can be purchased in pet-proof and childproof containers. You may need to set out several containers.

You could also hire a professional pest control company to help you.