Wood Cockroaches
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**Identification:** Wood cockroaches belong to the cockroach genus *Parcoblatta*. They are 7/8 to 1-1/4 inches in length. They are chestnut brown and the area behind the head has a cream-colored edge. The males have full-length wings while the females have shortened wings.

**Life Cycle and Habits:** Females deposit eggs in an egg case called an ootheca. Females produce an average of 30 egg capsules containing 32 eggs each throughout their lifetime. They are deposited outdoors in protected locations under wood, rocks, leaves, etc. Immature wood roaches do not have wings and live in the protected locations near where they hatch. Nymphs hatch in the summer and seek protected areas in which to pass the winter. Development time takes an average of 318 days from egg to adult.

Wood cockroaches invade homes by entering open doors and windows, or through cracks and crevices around windows, doors, vents, etc. They also enter homes on firewood that is brought into the house. They are attracted to light and are commonly found at porchlights especially in the late spring/early summer months. The indoor environment, however, does not contain some of the necessary conditions for reproduction and population growth, so wood roaches do not mate, establish populations, or infest food stores inside the home.

**Damage:** These cockroaches cause no damage, are not a health threat, and do not infest food stocks.

**Control Measures:** Reduce or eliminate potential entry points for these invaders. Make sure screening is tight, doorsill plates are in good condition, and that doors and windows are not left open for extended periods of time especially at night when the porch and interior lights are on. Check firewood before bringing it into the home for the presence of roaches. Finally, if you find these roaches indoors, you can kill them using a flyswatter, sticky traps, or household insecticides. Interior fumigation is not necessary.