

Homeowner Preparation Checklist

Professional Cockroach Spray Treatment

Re-entry time: 4–6 hours after treatment (or until surfaces are fully dry)

Proper preparation improves treatment effectiveness by removing competing food and water sources, exposing harborage areas, and giving the technician clear access. Confirm any company-specific instructions, as products and protocols can vary slightly.

1. Kitchen (Primary Focus Area)

- Empty **all** cabinets, drawers, pantry shelves, and under-sink areas. Remove dishes, pots, pans, utensils, food packages, and stored items. Place them in sealed bags/bins or move to an untreated room and cover if needed.
- Clear all countertops completely. Unplug and remove small appliances (toaster, coffee maker, blender, microwave, etc.).
- Pull major appliances (refrigerator, stove/oven, dishwasher) 1–3 feet away from walls if safely possible. Clean grease, crumbs, and debris from these areas.
- Wipe down countertops, stovetop, range hood, and cabinet interiors with soap and hot water. Vacuum or sweep floors, focusing on edges, corners, and under appliances.
- Store all remaining food in airtight containers or the refrigerator. Empty the toaster crumb tray and clean any grease buildup.
- Remove all trash, recycling, and empty bottles/containers from the home.

2. Bathrooms

- Empty all cabinets, drawers, vanities, and under-sink areas (toiletries, medications, toothbrushes, cleaning supplies, etc.).
- Clear countertops, tub/shower edges, and sinks.
- Wipe surfaces clean and address any standing water or leaks.

3. General Cleaning & Decluttering

- Vacuum thoroughly throughout the home (carpets, baseboards, edges of cabinets/drawers, closets, under furniture) to remove droppings, eggs, crumbs, and debris. Empty the vacuum bag/canister outdoors immediately after.
- Sweep/mop hard floors, focusing on corners and along baseboards.
- Reduce clutter (cardboard boxes, newspapers, paper piles, storage items) that provides hiding spots—especially near heat or moisture sources.
- Take out all garbage and keep outdoor bins sealed and away from the house if possible.
- Fix obvious water leaks or dripping faucets and eliminate standing water sources.

4. Furniture, Access & Other Areas

- Move furniture 6–12+ inches (or as much as practical) away from walls in treated rooms so baseboards and wall voids can be accessed.
- Clear floors of shoes, toys, clothes, and other items.
- Provide access to problem areas you have noticed (note locations of activity for the technician).
- Unlock gates, garages, sheds, attics, crawlspaces, or utility areas if exterior or whole-home treatment is planned.

5. People, Pets & Safety

- Arrange for **all people and pets** to leave the home during treatment and remain out for **4–6 hours** (or until surfaces are fully dry, whichever is longer).
- Cover fish tanks/aquariums with a damp towel and turn off aerators/filters.
- Remove or secure pet food, water bowls, bedding, and toys.
- Inform the company in advance of any pregnancies, infants, allergies, asthma, or other health sensitivities. Sensitive individuals may be advised to stay out longer than 6 hours.

6. Important Do's and Don'ts

- **Do not** use any over-the-counter sprays, foggers/bombs, or store-bought baits for at least several days (ideally 7+) before the appointment—these can repel cockroaches deeper into walls or interfere with professional products.
- Complete cleaning **before** the technician arrives. Do not mop or wipe treated surfaces afterward until instructed (this can remove residual insecticide or bait).
- Avoid heavy cleaning or wiping of bait placements for the period recommended by the technician (often 1–2 weeks for gels).

7. After Treatment

Follow the technician's re-entry and post-care instructions. Expect some continued activity initially as the treatment takes effect. A follow-up visit is often scheduled (commonly around 2 weeks later). Maintain sanitation, keep food sealed, fix moisture issues, and reduce clutter long-term for best results.