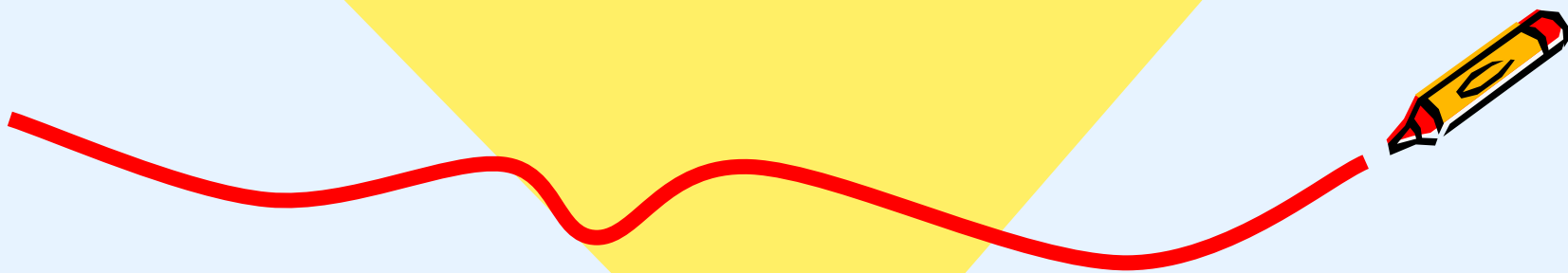


# Cockroach Management

Nebraska Extension



# Cockroaches are a big kitchen pest problem

- ❖ Food and water are plentiful
- ❖ German roach prefers a kitchen environment and is the most likely problem



# Why Control Roaches ?

- ❖ Transmit bacteria
- ❖ Cause food spoilage
- ❖ Trigger allergies



Photo: University of Nebraska–Lincoln



# Cockroach species have different requirements

- ❖ **German:** common in kitchens/bathrooms  
- high water and warm temps
- ❖ **Brown-banded:** found in storage, classrooms, and eating areas - reduced water needs
- ❖ **Oriental:** found in basements/lower floors - cool temps and need high water



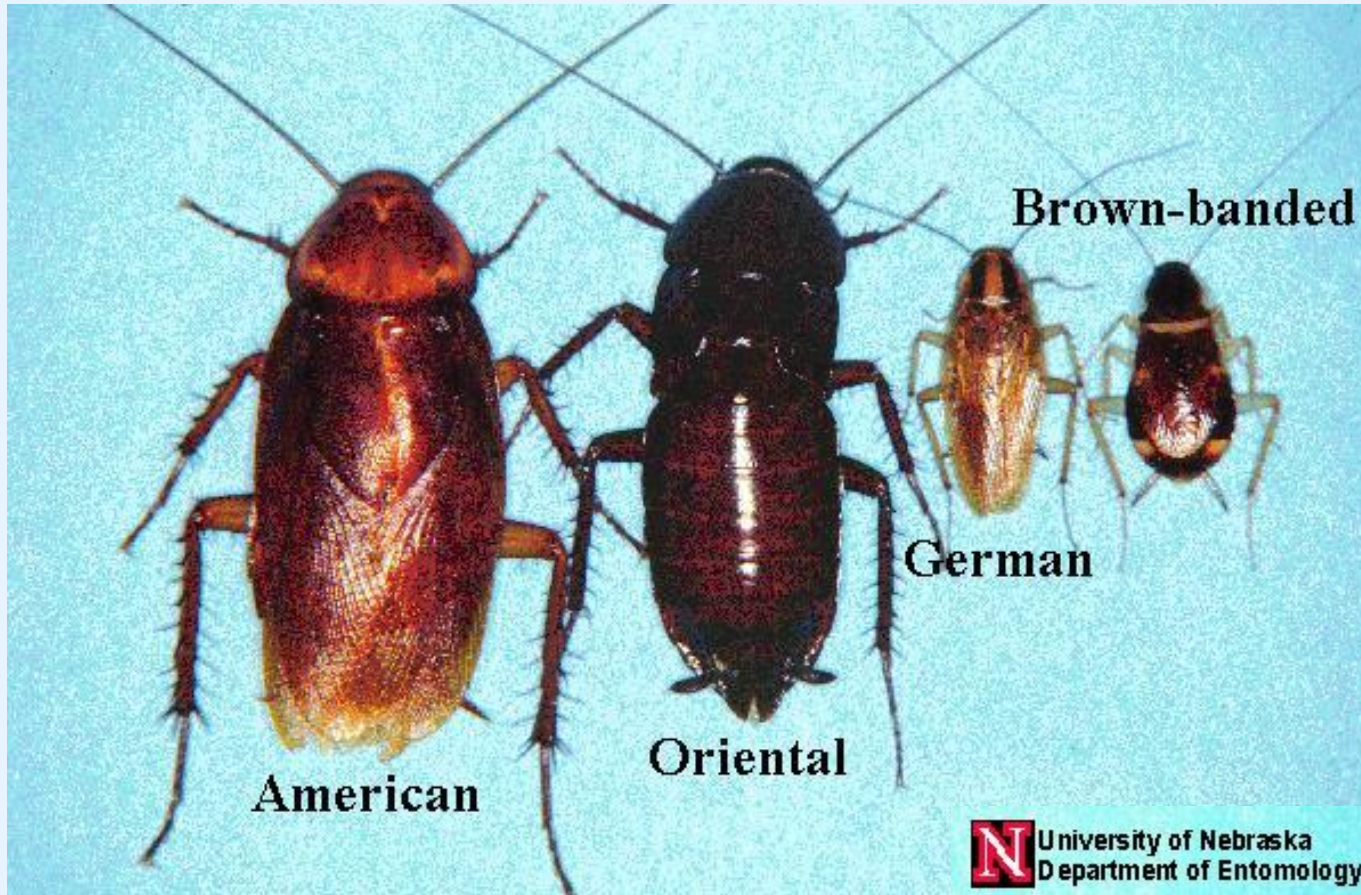
# Cockroach species have different requirements

- ❖ **American:** uncommon, found in steam tunnels, sewers - warm temps
- ❖ **Woods:** attracted to lights, don't infest - drawn to moist areas in buildings



**American  
cockroach**

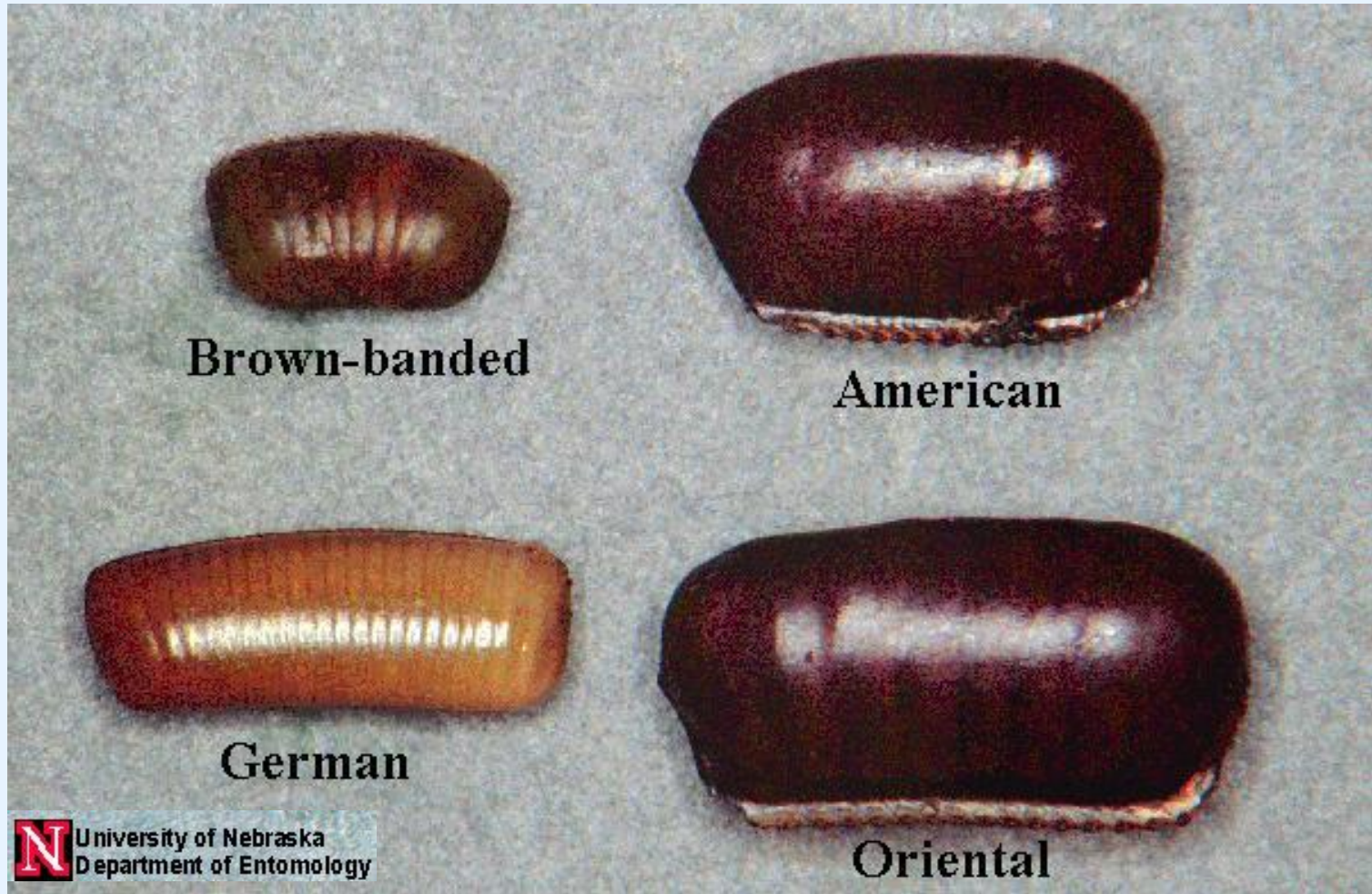
# Roach species range from 5/8" to nearly 2" long



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# Comparison of egg cases



# What are the roach signs?



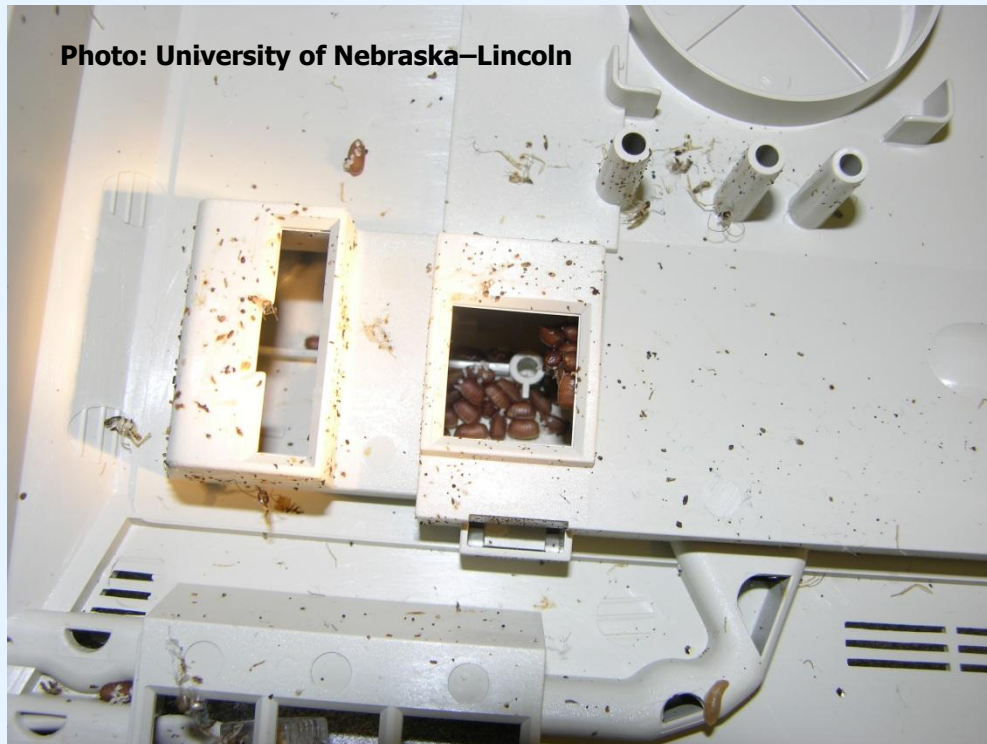
Photo: Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County

- ❖ Active at night
- ❖ Strong oily odor
- ❖ Roach specks similar to grains of pepper



# Other possible roach signs

- ❖ Egg case shells and shed "skins" (exoskeletons)



**Brown-banded roach specks, shed "skins," and empty egg cases on the inside of a phone**

# Where are German cockroaches found?

- ❖ In hidden areas during daytime
- ❖ Near water
- ❖ Near food
- ❖ Prefer wood and porous substrates



Photo: University of Nebraska–Lincoln

**German cockroaches hiding in the area behind a kitchen drawer**

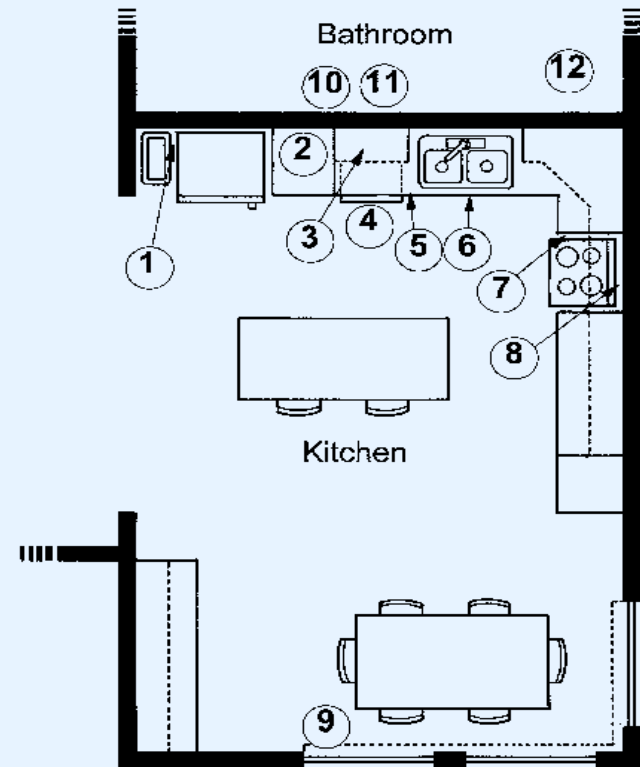


# Monitor to locate roach harborages

## ❖ Sticky traps

- Place in locations near moisture sources
- Place near refrigerators, stoves, garbage cans and under sinks

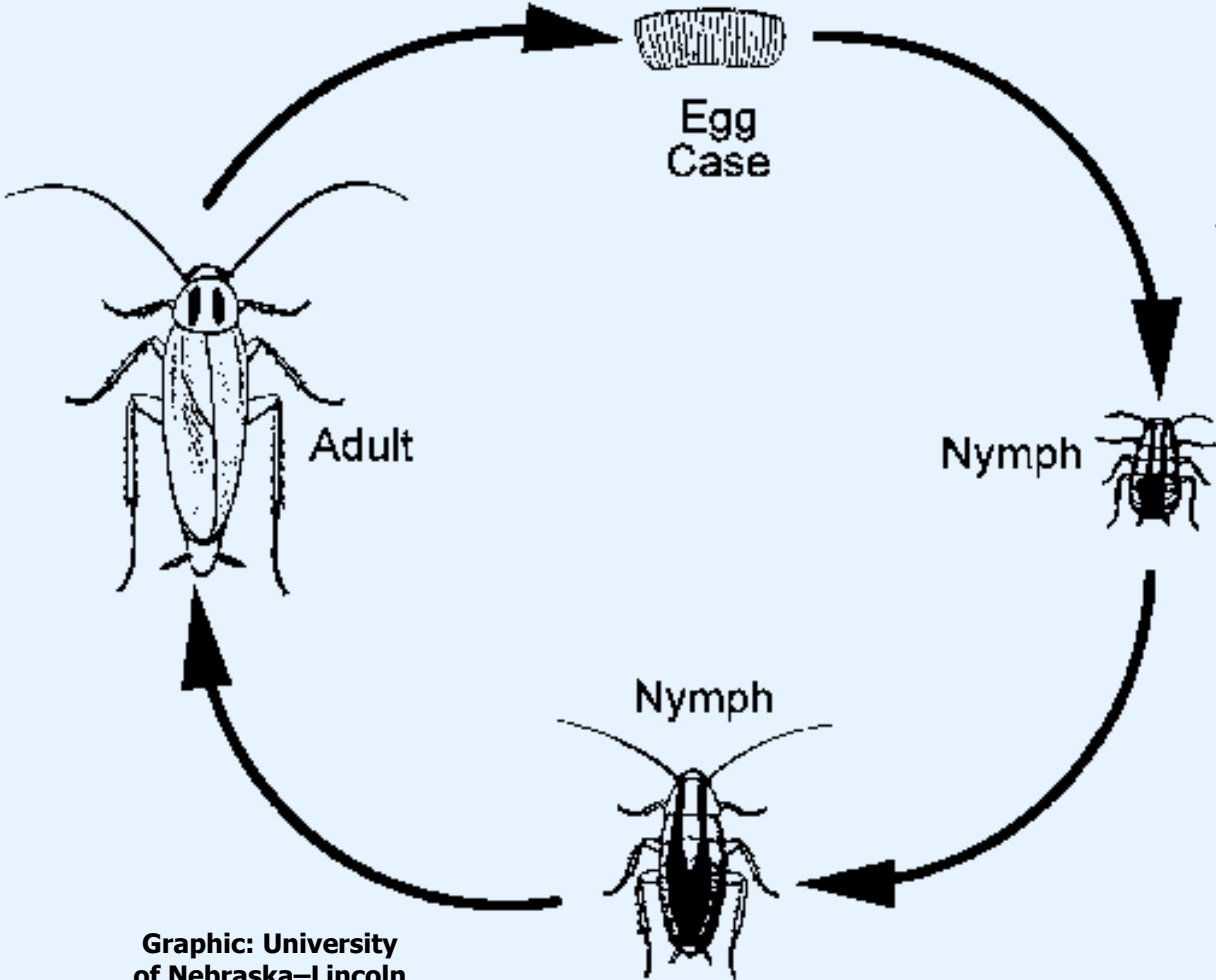
## ❖ Some roach traps have pheromones to aid in attracting roaches



Graphic: University of Nebraska–Lincoln



# Cockroach life cycle



Graphic: University of Nebraska-Lincoln





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- ❖ 4-5 egg cases / female
- ❖ 30-40 young / egg case

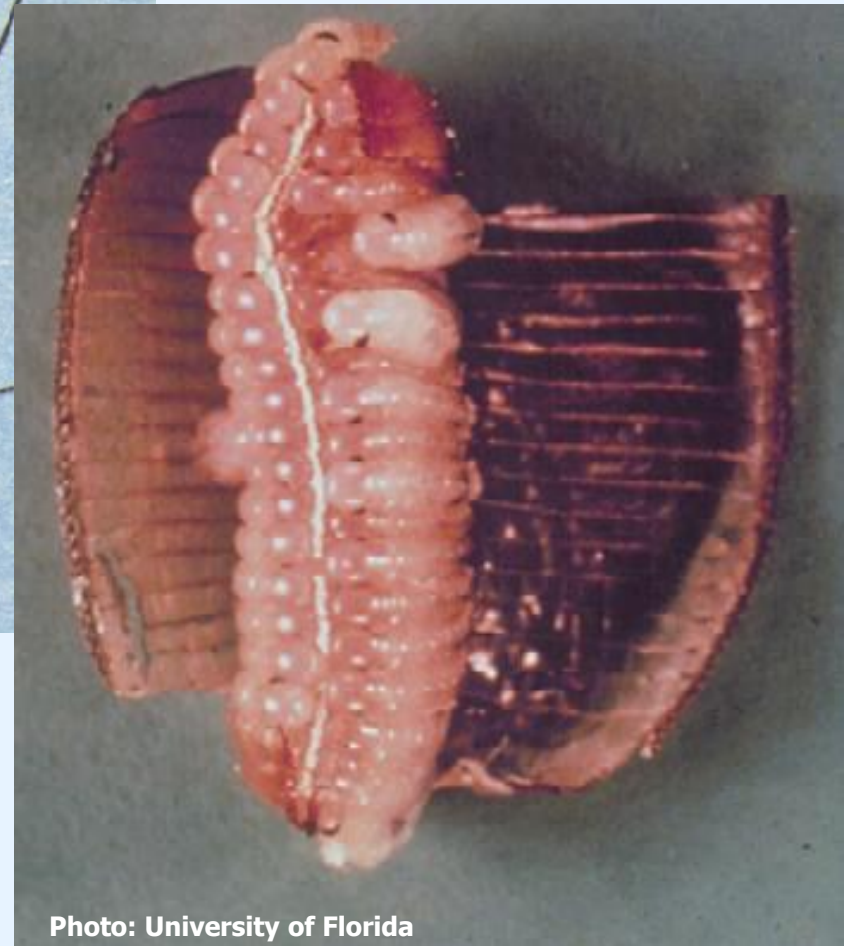


Photo: University of Florida

# Every kitchen can support a cockroach infestation

❖ Number of cockroaches depends upon amount of resources available:

➤ Food

➤ Water

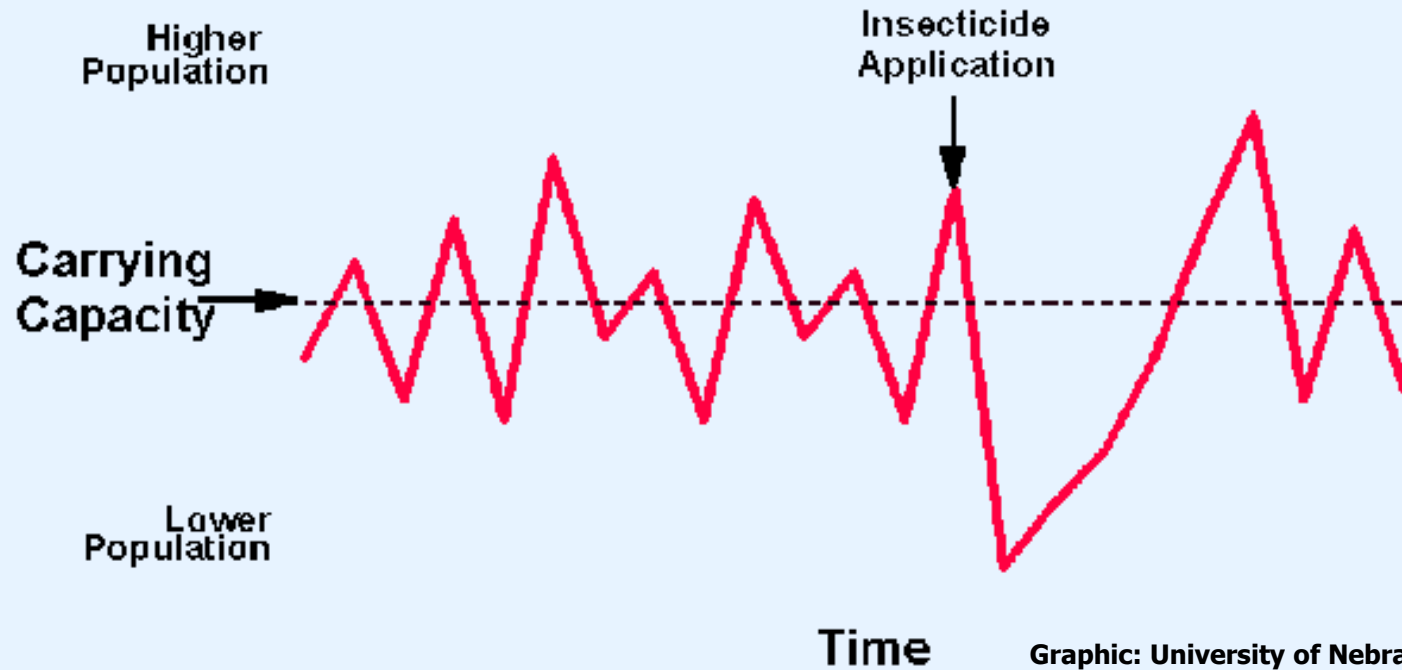
➤ Shelter

❖ Reduce the resources and the number of cockroaches will also be reduced

❖ This number is called the *carrying capacity*



# Carrying Capacity for Cockroaches



Graphic: University of Nebraska–Lincoln



Reduce or eliminate  
water, food, and  
shelter and the  
carrying capacity will  
also be reduced



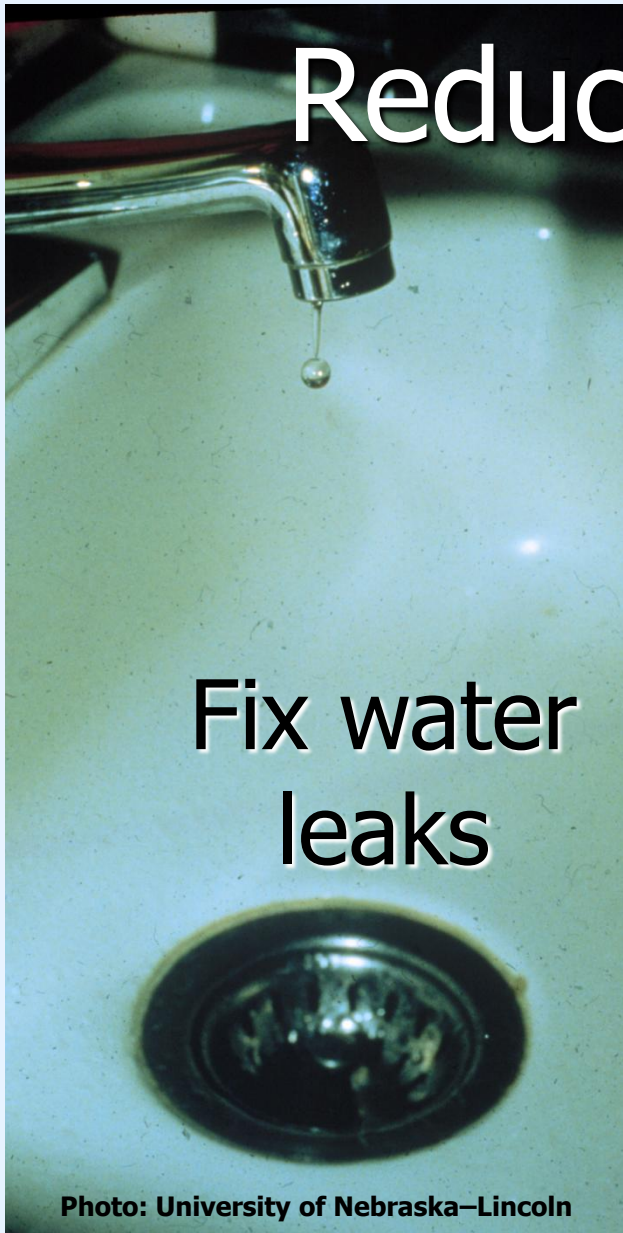


I admit I seen a few waterbugs,  
but I got no cockroach problems.  
(J. Kalisch 1995)

Do you  
see any  
resources  
that could  
be  
reduced?



# Reduce resources



Fix water leaks

Photo: University of Nebraska—Lincoln



Empty wash buckets

Photo: University of Nebraska—Lincoln

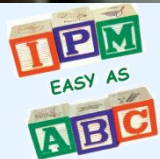




Seal cracks  
and crevices

Reduce resources

Photo: University of Nebraska–Lincoln



# Reduce resources

Thoroughly remove  
food residue

Photo: University of Nebraska–Lincoln



# Reduce resources



Vacuuming can  
remove food residues  
and live cockroaches

# Eliminate roach hiding places

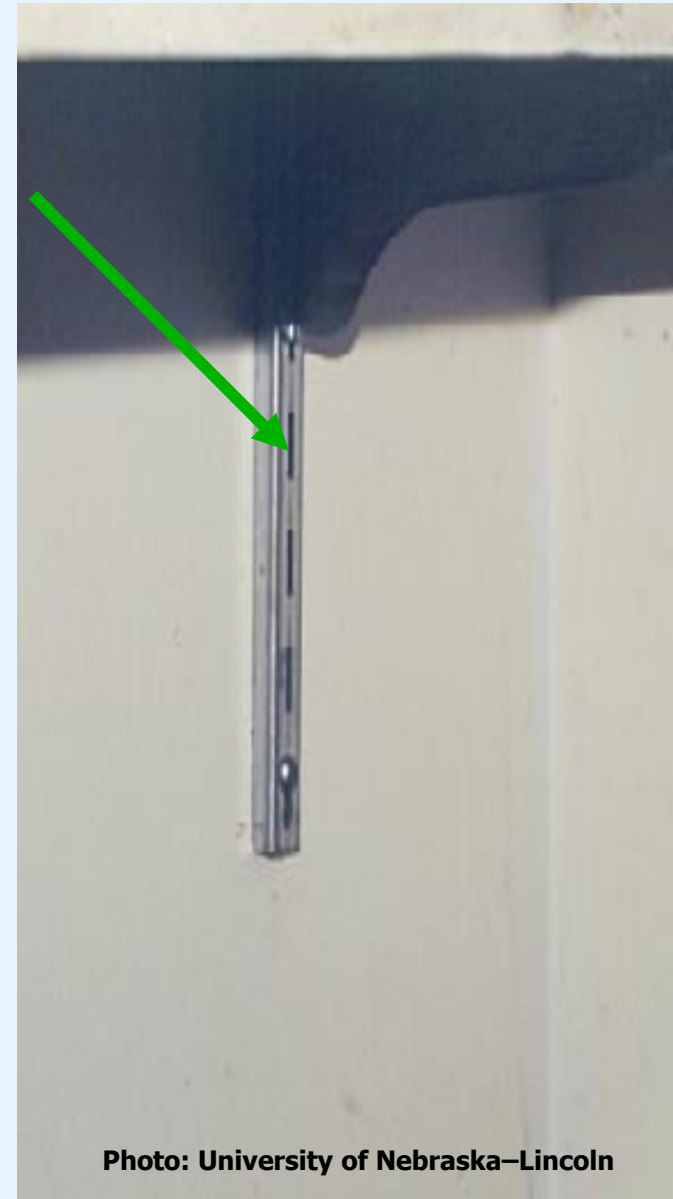
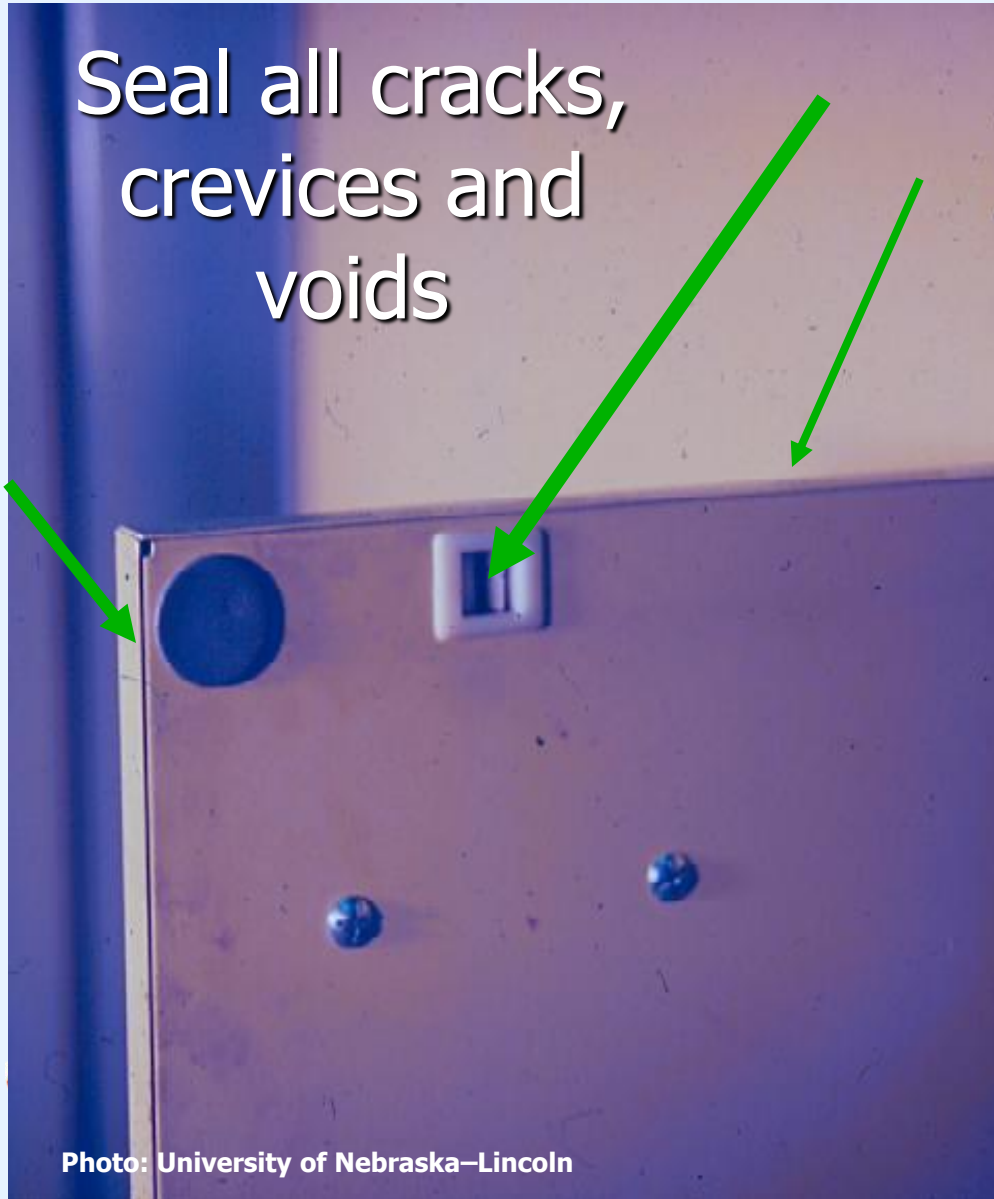


❖ Roaches live in “tight spots”:

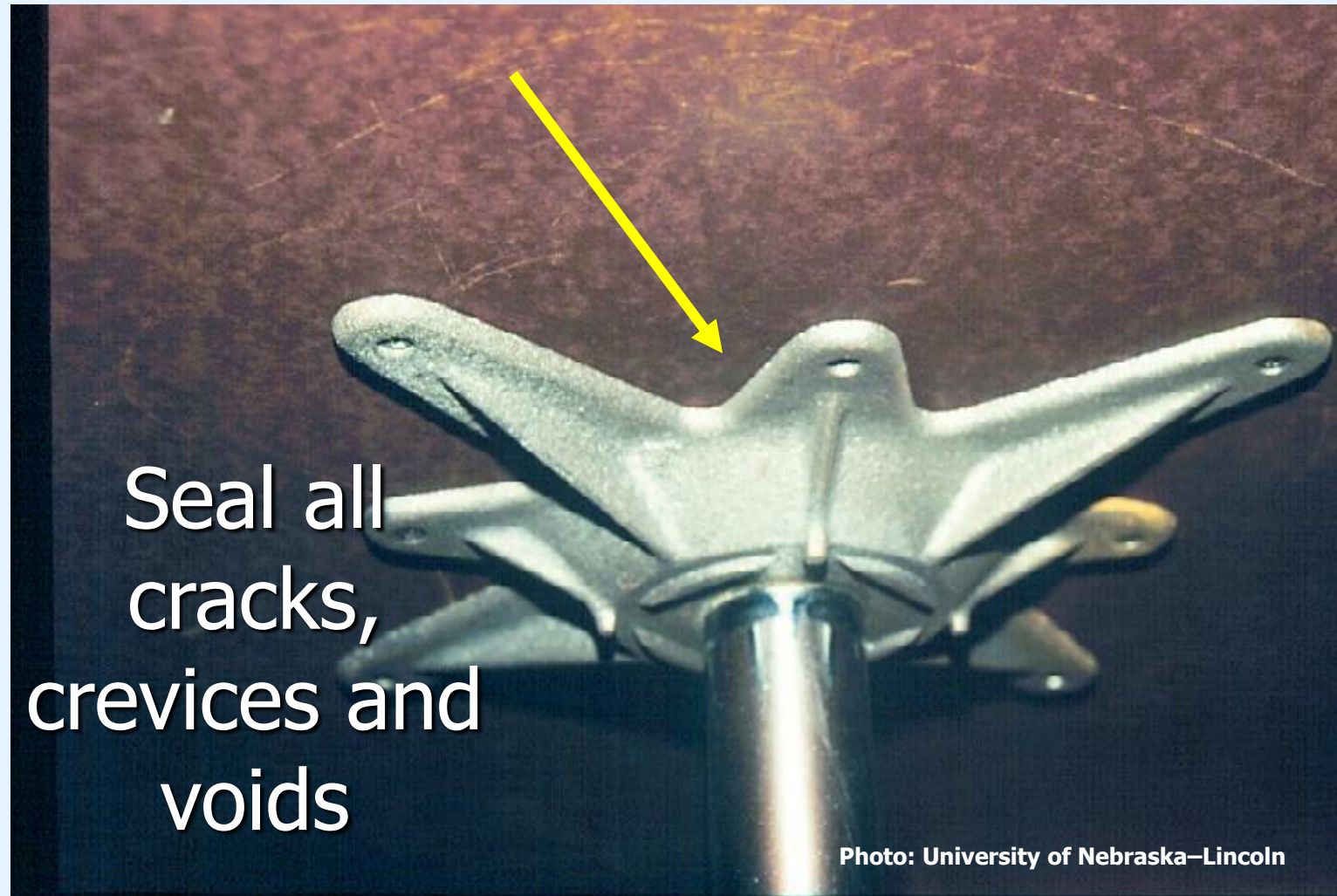
- Cracks
- Crevices
- Voids



# Reduce resources



# Reduce resources



Seal all  
cracks,  
crevices and  
voids

Photo: University of Nebraska–Lincoln





# Control tactics available



Photo: Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County

- ❖ Vacuuming
- ❖ Baits and Insect growth regulators effective
- ❖ Crack and crevice treatments target roach hiding places
- ❖ Baseboard treatments are NOT effective

*...take advantage of all available tactics*



# Storing pesticides safely

- ❖ Keep in original containers with intact label
- ❖ Lock in a cabinet or room
- ❖ Keep in separate location from cleaning supplies
- ❖ Follow label directions for disposal



# Credits

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